Al-Ghozi neither killed nor captured, says gov't

Story below, COL. 1

PRESIDENT Macapagal wags a finger as if telling AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya (far right) that while conditions warrant the lifting of the state of rebellion, Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi is still out there somewhere.

JESS YUSON

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, August 12, 2003 ★★ 44 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 245 P15

GMA lifts state of rebellion

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SAYING the coup threat has abated, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday lifted the state of rebellion 15 days after she issued the controversial declaration to quell the July 27 mutiny in Makati City.

The President also ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines to declassify "Campaign Plan Andres," the alleged plot to install a 15-member junta after the planned overthrow of the administration.

Ms Macapagal announced the lifting of the state of rebellion at the awarding of The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) by the Metrobank Foundation and the Rotary Club of Makati Metro in Malacañang, drawing loud applause from the crowd.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the lifting of the state of rebellion did not mean that the government would stop charging a coup

GMA LIFTS/A16

2 colonels, major nabbed

Military says Gringo 'kuya' of mutineers

By TJ Burgonio

TWO Army colonels, including one allegedly involved in the 1989 failed putsch, and a major had "brainwashed" the junior officers into mounting the July 27 mutiny, the military said yesterday.

Using information recovered from computer diskettes found after the failed coup, Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia also said the rebel soldiers had planned to install ex-coup plotter and now opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan as the head of a junta.

"They intended to install somebody with the code name Kuya (Big Brother) as head of state," Garcia said. "Kuya referred to Sen. Gregorio Honasan."

The diskettes contained the names of the coup plot's financial backers and supporters, and detailed plans to topple the government using violence, he added.

Garcia identified the senior officers as Colonels Herbert Avinante and Pompeo Limbo, both members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1978, and Maj. Demy Tejares, a member of PMA Class of 1983.

"I would presume that they brainwashed the young officers (on) the need for drastic reforms through drastic action and the use of force, and sustained comments and criticisms of perceived follies of the AFP," Garcia said.

Avinante, commandant of the Combat Arms School, Training and Doctrine, was a participant in the

2 COLONELS/A16

Al-Ghozi neither killed nor captured, says gov't

By TJ Burgonio *in Manila,*
Charlie C. Señase
and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

NEITHER killed nor captured.

That's the status of escaped Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, according to officials, amid conflicting media reports that the Indonesian fugitive was either dead or in government custody.

"We want to debunk the rumor that we have him in custody and that we have neutralized him. We have not," Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said at the 2nd Management Association of the Philippines International CEO Conference in Makati. "So we are still running after him."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has asked the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) not to block troops from conducting pursuit operations against the Indonesian fugitive in Lanao del Norte.

"The recapture of Al-Ghozi is vital to the cause of fighting transnational terrorism," the President said in a statement.

The military later said that Al-Ghozi had slipped through its

AL-GHOZI/A15

MAS MATINDI SA KAPENG BARAKO 'TO!

Café with legs sizzles in uptight Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile—Like many men in Santiago, Fernando Zamora takes his coffee strong, with a dash of sugar and a peek at bikini-clad waitresses.

While Santiago is known as one of Latin America's most uptight cities—where abortion is illegal in all cases and divorce is still a sticky issue—a relaxation of its

CAFÉ/A15

'Art of war' according to the Bible

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Take their good word for it.

Retired Army generals and police officers, who have become preachers, offered their Bibles on Monday to help solve the unrest in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

According to retired Maj. Gen. Ramberto Saavedra, a former AFP spokesperson, the Bible teaches its own version of "the art of war."

It shows soldiers, who are short on bullets, that they can fight insurgency with even less logistical materiel, he said.

Saavedra said the crisis facing President Macapagal-Arroyo was

ART/A4

JOAN BONDOC

LAARNI Enriquez (left), mistress of ousted President Estrada, watches her daughter Jerika tell the press that school in England can wait because she wants to be with her mother even in jail.

Laarni pal: I wasn't coerced

By Armand N. Nocum, Philip C. Tubeza and Luige del Puerto

GOVERNMENT agents have pressured state witness Liezel Magpoc to sign a "supplemental affidavit" linking deposed President Joseph Estrada and his mistress Laarni Enriquez to the failed coup attempt, Enriquez herself said yesterday.

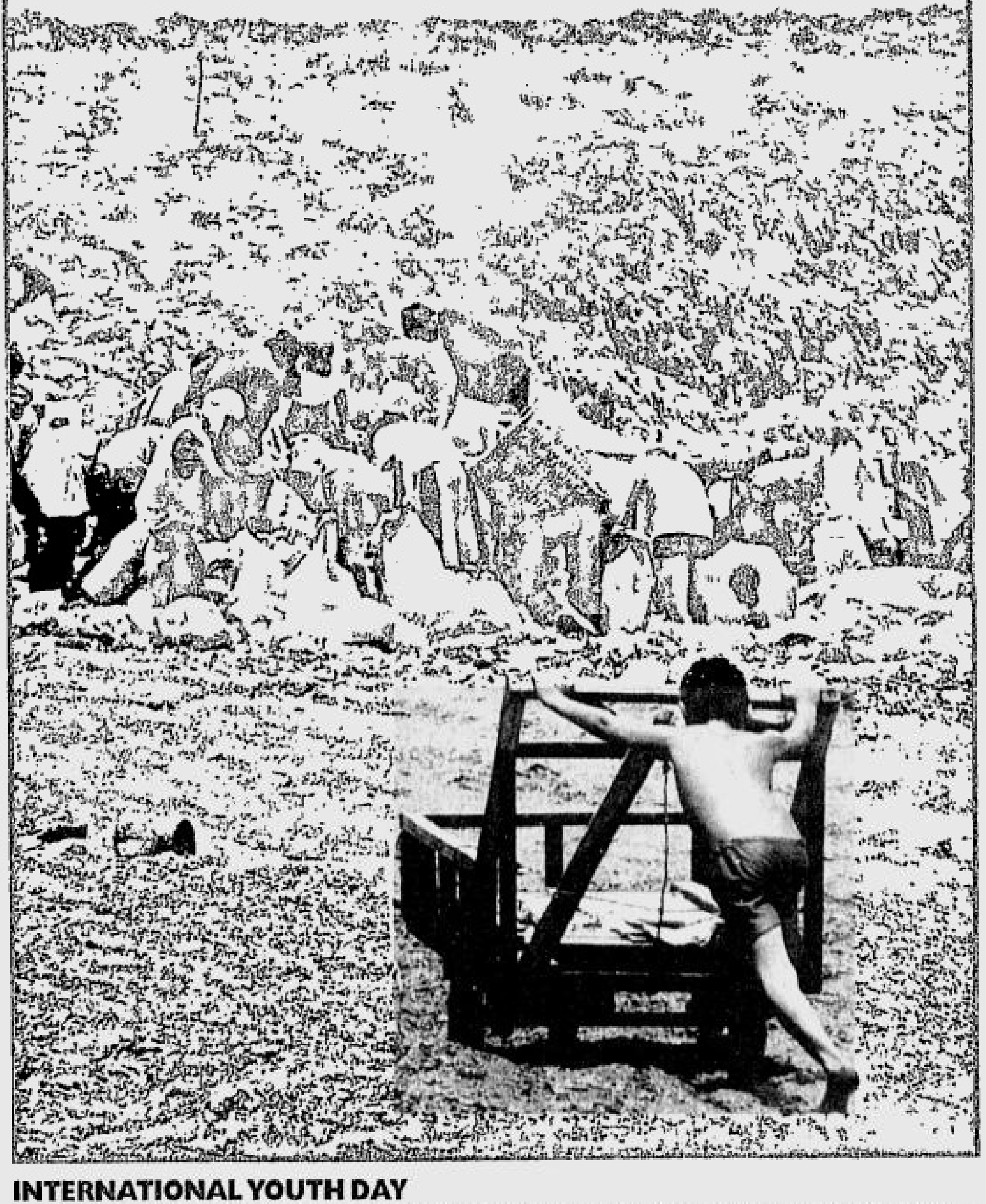
But in a statement she read on television, Magpoc denied that she had been coerced into filing her second affidavit.

Present at the press briefing, Jerika Larize Ejercito, Enriquez's 18-year-old daughter by Estrada, told reporters what she would do if her mother were arrested: "I will be arrested with Mom. *Sasama ako kahit saan* (I will go with her wherever they will bring her)."

Enriquez said Magpoc had called her up to tell her that men from the National Bureau of Investigation and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines were pressuring her to execute an affidavit that was damaging to the Estradas.

"She called me up. She was crying and was

LAARNI/A16



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY
While other children his age are in school, this boy labors under the noonday sun to help his family scratch out a living from this mountain of garbage in Tondo, Manila. The United Nations has declared Aug. 12 International Youth Day.

ERIK ARAZAS

Feliciano Commission hearing open to the public

By Juliet L. Javellana
and Leila B. Salaverria

FOR THE FIRST time since the July 27 coup attempt, the leaders of the failed Makati mutiny will be heard in public when they appear before the Feliciano Commission tomorrow.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the hearing, to be held in Camp Aguinaldo, would be open to the public.

Tomorrow's much-anticipated hearing is also expected to touch on a new discovery by the National Bureau of Investigation that a Navy ensign who was among the 321 soldiers charged with coup d'état was the one who had ordered the P57,000 worth of Magdalo flags.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the officer as Ensign Armand Pontejos, a member of Class 2001 of the Philippine Military Academy assigned to the Navy's Special Warfare Group.

Pontejos' name was discovered in the receipt issued by the flag makers, International Flag House of Sta. Cruz. He had tried to obliterate his name and a phone number with blue ink.

FELICIANO/A15

Top cop wants fellow officer investigated

By Christian V. Esguerra
and TJ Burgonio

A POLICE director, who allegedly maintains a public relations firm with a whopping P1-million monthly budget, could be the prime target of a renewed anticorruption drive within the Philippine National Police.

"He should be the first to be subjected to a lifestyle check," Deputy Director Gen. Virtus Gil, PNP deputy chief for operations, told reporters yesterday.

Facing a similar inquiry, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday justified as aboveboard the construction of a "mansion" for his family inside Fort Bonifacio in Makati City.

"I took out a loan for it. It's being built in Fort Bonifacio, it's a military officers' housing area. It's not in Forbes, it's not in Dasmariñas (Village), it's not in (the) Corinthians (Gardens)," he said, referring to some of the posh subdivisions in the metropolis.

Gil, who ranks No. 3 in the police hierarchy, did not identify the police officer and did not say for what purpose he supposedly needed the services of a PR firm.

But Gil's allegation seemed to support a statement made by Director Jose Lalisan, who was tasked with looking into the lifestyles of all police officers, that some of them may have been paying bigtime PR practitioners.

"We'll check where they're getting

TOP/A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST. The western section of the country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/12/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Surge in Marcos victims expected

By Carlito Pablo

WITH a P10 billion compensation fund almost at hand, scores of people have been surfacing to claim that they were also victims of human rights violations by the Marcos dictatorship.

Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) said that while indeed there were legitimate claimants still be to accounted for, "there will always be those who will ride on this and exploit the situation for their financial gain."

Based on the number of petitioners who won a class suit against the Marcos estate before a Hawaii court in 1994, the so-called master list of victims stands at 9,539.

Rosales said priority would be given to these 9,539, but that others were expected to surface. She said these new claimants, whether victims themselves or relatives of supposed victims, have offered a variety of reasons for being late in coming forward. "Some are saying they didn't know who to approach; others say they didn't know there was something for them by way of compensation."

Another group consisting of soldiers and barangay captains, and with a novel claim, has been calling her office, Rosales said: "They say their relatives were victims of human rights violations by rebels, and so they are also entitled (to compensation) since rebels became rebels because of martial law."

Rosales could not tell how many of these new claimants would be deemed qualified once the funds become available. Asked how her office was treating them, she said, "We entertain them. They are on our files. We are always polite to them."

Swiss authorities have cleared the transfer to the Philippine government of $683 million in frozen Marcos monies, or roughly P38 billion.

Malacañang previously announced that P8 billion out of this amount would go to the Marcos victims, and the bulk of it to agrarian reform. But Congress is currently deliberating on House Bill 4535, which seeks a compensation fund of no less than P10 billion.

The bill also provides for the creation of a "board of claims" that will screen claimants and determine individual compensations. Rosales said these mechanisms should be set in place.

Even the master list would have to be reviewed, she explained. "There are double entries, and there are victims who can't be located anymore."

Bongbong scrambles to explain

LAOAG CITY—Saying he had been merely pointing out inconsistencies in the reported amount of the Marcos Swiss deposits being held in escrow, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. backpedaled on his allegation that bribery had gotten in the way of the Supreme Court decision declaring the accounts as ill-gotten.

Marcos called for an emergency press briefing on Monday where he explained his position on the supposed bribery and the motions his family planned to submit before the Supreme Court.

Prior to the briefing, Marcos said in a prepared statement: "I never accused the Supreme Court of bribery... The point I was trying to make (was) there appeared to be money missing."

Presidential Commission on Good Government Commissioner Ruben Carranza had asked the high court to cite Marcos for contempt for alleging that it had pocketed a portion of the Swiss funds.

In a briefing last week, Marcos told reporters the Swiss deposits stood at $750 million, not $658 million as stated in the decision.

Without accusing anyone in particular, Marcos said the "missing" amount might have been used as a payoff, presumably for a favorable decision.

Marcos also discounted as "misleading and incorrect" Carranza's published statement that the July 15 Supreme Court decision was final.

"(Ilocos Norte Rep.) Imee (Marcos) and I haven't filed our appeal yet," the governor said. "Is he so sure that the Supreme Court will turn down our appeal? Does he know something we don't?" *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

In hiding, Gringo files Senate resolution

By Michael Lim Ubac

EVEN in hiding, Sen. Gregorio Honasan has continued to exercise his legislative duties.

Yesterday the gun-shy senator, wanted in connection with the mutiny of young military officers two weeks ago, filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into the housing problems aired by the rebel soldiers.

Through his Senate staff, Honasan filed Senate Resolution No. 660 after President Macapagal-Arroyo lifted the state of rebellion she had declared at the height of the mutiny.

The two-page resolution was received by the Senate Bills and Index Division at 1:29 p.m., but the INQUIRER was furnished with a copy of the resolution only at 6 p.m.

The resolution bearing the signature of the beleaguered senator asked the chamber to direct an inquiry into the allegedly anomalous sale of a 40-hectare piece of property inside the military reservation at Fort Bonifacio.

Honasan pointed out that the Joint US Military Advisory Group (Jusmag) reservation area was a potential source of funds for the much-delayed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Modernization Program.

"If sold at prevailing market value, it would raise about P12 billion since the same is a prime lot," he said.

But the property was sold in 1991 to the Southside Homeowners Association Inc. (SHAI), a group composed of generals' wives and ranking AFP officers, for only P12 million or P30 per sq. m., he said.

Honasan claimed the purchase price was one-half the current assessed value of the property.

"As a result of the so-called perfected sale made between the Land Management Bureau and the SHAI, a Transfer Certificate of Title was issued by the Register of Deeds of Rizal," said the opposition senator.

He contended that the sale was illegal because the disposition of military reservation areas could only be effected through a proclamation or an act of Congress.

Honasan said the prime property was now being occupied and used for residential and commercial purpose by ranking military and police officers.

"Of the 106 housing units in the property, 59 are still occupied by military and police officers who have either died, resigned or retired from the service and only 47 units are in the names of those who are in active service," he said.

He said the ranking officials who occupy mansions on sprawling lots at Jusmag also owned lots in the nearby seven-hectare AFP Officers Village, also located inside Fort Bonifaco.

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NO FANS OF PING

Filipino workers in Hong Kong rally against the candidacy of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson for president, during a speech and campaign stop he made recently in the Chinese territory. Specifically, the OFWs who are eligible to vote in the 2004 elections from their overseas base, questioned Lacson's role during martial law and in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre in 1995. DANTE PERALTA/PINOY ABROAD

Fears raised Marcos loot will fund poll kitty

By Norman Bordadora

MILITANT and moderate people's organizations have raised fears that the bulk of the Marcos money meant for agrarian reform would be used to augment the administration's campaign kitty in 2004.

The Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services (Parrds) hit the "framework" budget of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council, which allotted only P8 billion for actual land redistribution.

It was not only the "wrong sense of priorities" behind the Parc-Department of Agrarian Reform allocation scheme that was objectionable, Parrds executive director Ricardo Reyes said in a statement. He said the breakdown of the P30 billion "special CARP budget" from the Marcos loot showed "a veritable recipe for electoral campaign projects."

In the Parc-DAR allocation, P22 billion will be used for farm-to-market roads, irrigation, post-harvest facilities, cooperative strengthening, technical marketing support and other services which, incidentally include erecting school buildings.

With this, Reyes noted, that Malacañang was "sending all kinds of signals" that President Macapagal-Arroyo would run next year. DAR Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan was also keen on a senatorial bid, he added.

The fisher folk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas insisted that at least P12 billion should be allotted for victims of Martial Law.

In a press statement, Pamalakaya said it was backing the position taken by the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda), the organization of ex-detainess that filed the class suit case against the Marcos estate before a Hawaii court.

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said they were supporting House Bill 4535, which sets the compensation and indemnification of all Marcos victims. Selda's view is that 120,000 should be compensated and prosecution of the Marcoses resumed.

Selda also said yesterday that payment for their American lawyer Robert Swift and his local counterpart Rod Domingo should come from the Hawaii judgement and not from the bill pending in Congress.

With this stand the group rejected an initiative bared over the weekend by Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, herself a claimant, to give the lawyers up to five percent of the proposed P10-billion compensation package. *With Volt Contreras*

Officers to talk on arms sales to MILF

By Christine O. Avendaño

TWO MARINE captains are set to testify before the Senate to confirm the claims of the July 27 Oakwood mutineers of anomalies in the military establishment.

One of the captains claimed he was there in December 1997 when military elements delivered firearms and ammunition to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Sulu, an operation that allegedly had the blessings of the Southern Command.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday he had directed that a subpoena be issued to Capt. Danilo Luna and Capt. Ury Pesigan, both of the Philippine Marines based in Fort Bonifacio, after opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. made the request.

Pimentel also asked Drilon to place Luna and Pesigan in the protective custody of the Senate or any agency "which can extend protection against any attempt on their lives."

Pimentel said at a news conference that Luna and Pesigan had sought his help after they received death threats.

"They have come out in the open because they want to refocus the issues raised (by the Magdalo group)," Pimentel said.

He said Luna, a bemedalled officer, has executed an affidavit detailing his knowledge of the alleged sale of firearms and ammunition to enemies of the state, one of the reasons the Magdalo group stated for their rebellion.

Pesigan is expected to testify on "other anomalies committed by elements within the Department of National Defense," Pimentel said. He did not elaborate.

Luna and Pesigan, who are not graduates of the Philippine Military Academy, are both under "restrictive status" at Fort Bonifacio for unclear reasons, according to their lawyer Gideon Mortel.

Mortel said the movements of the two officers were recently restricted by their superiors.

Pimentel made it clear the two were not part of the July 27 failed coup attempt.

Luna said that on Dec. 27, 1997, he was the commanding officer of the 17th Marine Co, in Jolo, Sulu when he received an order from the 3rd Marine Brigade to provide light armor support and backup security to the MBLT9/3rd Marine Brigade in their logistics run on that day.

At 5:30 p.m., he said, a Lt. Col. Lorenzo Dimaunahan ordered him to take two light armored vehicles and follow two M35 trucks with troops on board that was already on the road.

The trucks were carrying several rounds of 81-mm mortar cartridges, 57-mm rocket launchers, and several thousand rounds for .50-cal. and various types of guns, he said.

Luna said he witnessed the ammunition being off-loaded from the trucks and given to a Haji Bagis, former mayor of Panamao, Sulu and a known ex-rebel.

Luna said he reported the incident to the duty personnel of the Marine Intelligence Detachment stationed at Camp Bautista, Sulu, and to Capt. George Fernandez, OIC-MID Zamboanga, but nothing came of the investigation.

Luna said he was later told the Southcom had sanctioned the operation.

Publisher says libel raps meant to silence her

By Christine O. Avendaño

NEWSPAPER publisher Ninez Cacho-Olivares yesterday said her Aug. 4 arrest for libel and 29 additional counts to be filed against her were meant to shut her up over alleged attempts by Palace aides to extort money from German investors in the new Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Olivares submitted to the Senate committee on public information and mass media a copy of the tape and transcript which, she said, proved the alleged extortion try.

In a statement she read during the hearing, Olivares said: "This is what Malacañang, presidential aides and (the President's personal lawyer Arthur) Villaraza wanted suppressed."

It was not only Villaraza who wanted to silence her, she said, but also "the Palace occupants and their aides, who are involved in the Fraport-Piatco $70 million extortion racket." Aside from Villaraza, the Tribune publisher pointed to Avelino "Nonong" Cruz, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on strategic projects, and Gloria Tan Climaco, describing them as "her cronies," who "want the finished Piatco project for themselves at bargain prices.

Olivares accused the Senate blue ribbon committee of "stonewalling the probe" of the Tribune report based on the tape, "on the flimsy excuse that the tape was illegally obtained."

Olivares found an ally in Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, chair of the public information and mass media committee, who agreed to summon the German investors.

To be called for the next hearing are Dr. Dietrich Stiller and Peter Henkel, lawyers of Fraport-Inc.; Wilhelm Bender, Fraport executive chairma, and Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, who had confirmed that the voices on the tape were those of the German lawyers.

Villaraza earlier filed libel charges against Olivares for her series of articles alleging that he had asked for $20 million from Fraport in exchange for solving the firm's legal troubles, after the German firm had a falling out with Piatco, its local partner.

Opposition senators were in full force at yesterday's hearing and opened discussions on the possibility of amending the libel law to prevent it from being used as a tool of harassing the working press.

Olivares' lawyer Harriet Demetriou told the committee that the law was applied in a "vindictive and oppressive manner" to her client, who was "not a notorious criminal and not a fugitive."

Human rights lawyer Rene Saguisag commented that he found "extraordinary zeal" in the hasty arrest.

Yulo tenant-tillers see ray of hope

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

RECENT Supreme Court decisions on the coco levy fund and the $683 million Marcos deposits in Switzerland have given new hope to 65 surviving agrarian reform beneficiaries in Barangay Casile, Cabuyao, Laguna, even as 20 of their co-beneficiaries had died died waiting to occupy the lands awarded to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform in 1992.

"The Supreme Court has been issuing popular decisions," said their counsel, human rights lawyer Efren Mercado. "The Casile case is another popular issue because it is a struggle of farmers against a corporation owned by the Yulos."

Mercado said the Casile farmers have been encouraged by the SC Special First Division resolution last Wednesday setting for oral arguments on Aug. 13 the ownership dispute over 254 hectares of land the farmers have been tilling since 1910. The Yulo-owned Sta. Rosa Development Corp. had questioned the coverage of the property under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

That the case has been set for oral arguments was a positive development, the lawyer said, as it indicated that the high tribunal was open to reversing a decision penned in 2001 by now retired Associate Justice Bernardo Pardo setting aside a ruling of the Court of Appeals that upheld the award of the lands to the farmers.

The farmers had sought a reconsideration of Pardo's decision but their appeal was junked on Nov. 20, 2002 by the Special First Division composed of Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Justices Consuelo-Yñares Santiago, Alicia Austria-Martinez, Renato Corona and Conchita Carpio-Morales. They filed a second motion for reconsideration seeking to refer the case to the high court en banc.

"I have been told that it's very rare for the Supreme Court to rule against itself," Mercado said, "(but) it appears that the SC is taking a second look at the case."

The farmers have not been able to till their lands since 1993 when the SC issued a temporary restraining order on all activities in the property after the prominent Yulo family protested the CA decision in favor of the farmers.

Fewer Pinoy workers leaving

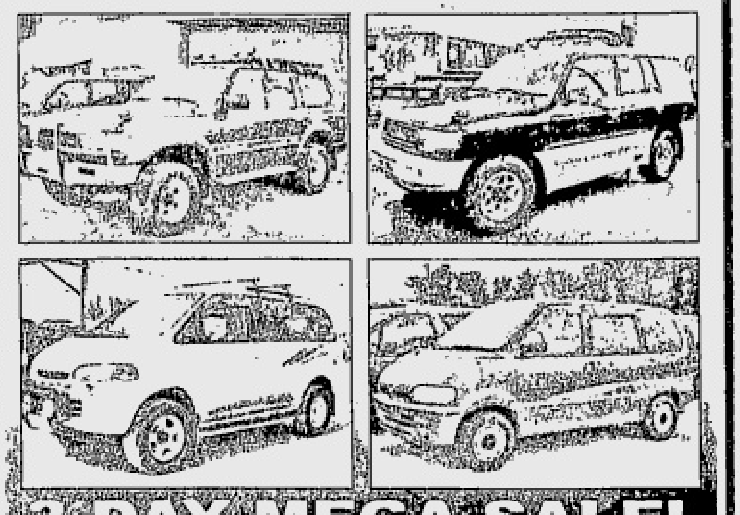
THE OVERSEAS deployment of Filipino workers has continued to drop the past few months, Department of Labor and Employment records showed.

According to the latest data, there was a 4.8-percent drop in the deployment figures to date compared to last year.

Daily average deployment fell from 2,623 last year to 2,497 as of Aug. 7, 2003.

The records showed that 447,979 land-based workers, as opposed to seamen, were hired during the same period last year, while only 413,276 were hired this year, for an average drop in daily deployment of 7.7 percent.

Most of the land-based workers were "rehires" although their number went down by 11.3 percent daily. *Martin P. Marfil*



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BANGKOK	158	175	KUWAIT	328	690
MACAU	148	130	DHARAN	380	748
TOKYO	200	375	JEDDAH	383	705
OSAKA	220	368	ABU DHABI	280	662
FUKUOKA	200	435	BAHRAIN	308	662
NAGOYA	200	378	LOS ANGELES	390	609
TAIPEI	140	285	SAN FRANCISCO	390	850
SAIGON	225	240	NEWARK	371	702
SEOUL	175	365	GUAM	325	378
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   a. Hyper Text Markup Language
   b. Hot Tea Milk with Lemon
   c. High Tide in Middle Lands
   d. Hotmail
2. The section which gives info on stocks and money-making tips
   a. Lifestyle
   b. Business
   c. Comic Relief
   d. Sports
3. Who is the country's national hero?
   a. Ninoy Aquino
   b. Emilio Aguinaldo
   c. Andres Bonifacio
   d. Jose Rizal
4. Which band of terrorists took Martin and Marsha Burnham hostage in Mindanao?
   a. MILF
   b. Abu Sayyaf
   c. NPA
   d. Al Qaida
5. Which actor hits the big screen with Will Smith in Bad Boys II?
   a. Martin Lawrence
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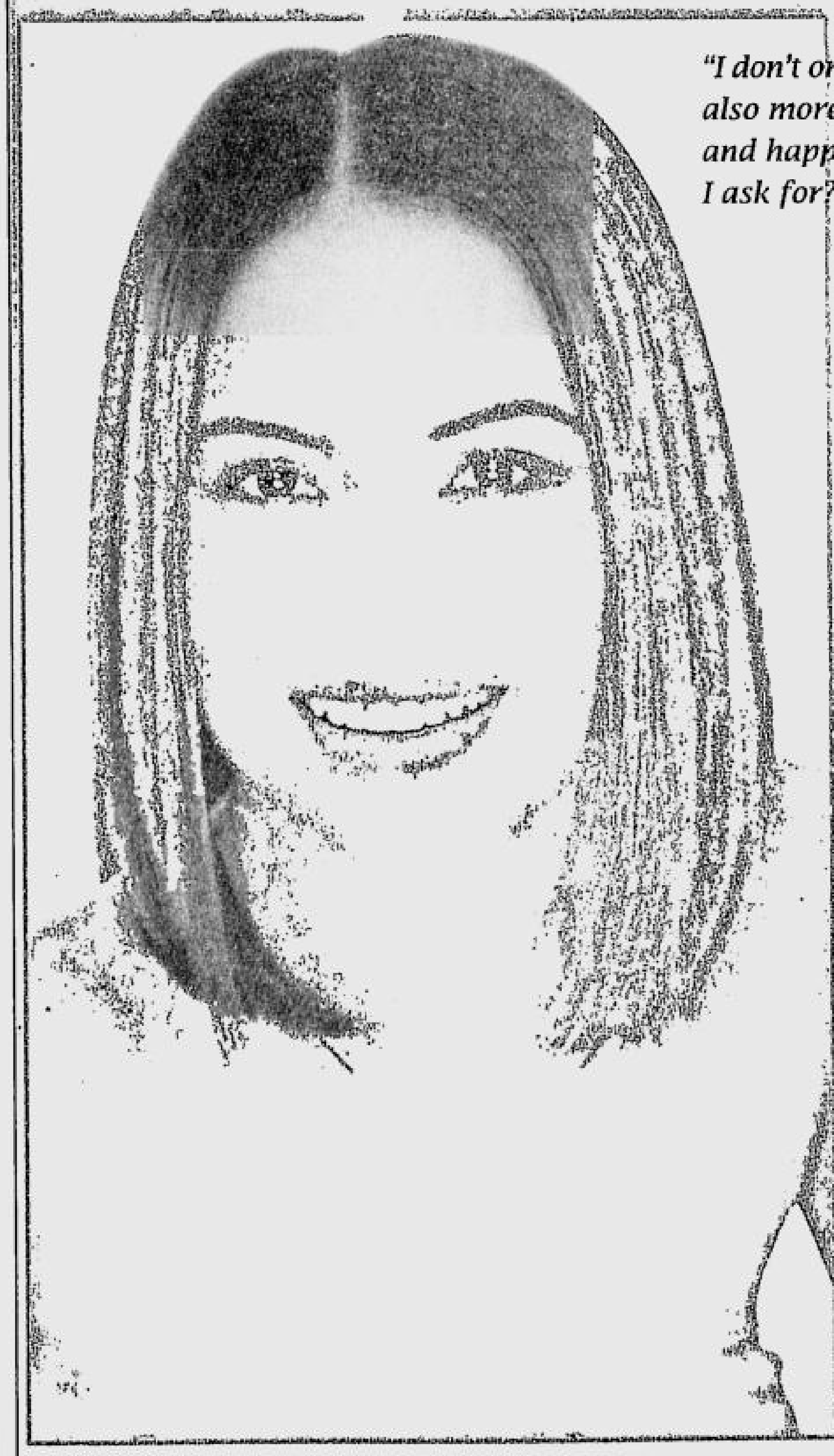

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Department of Trade lifts price controls

WITH the lifting of the state of rebellion, price controls on basic consumer goods have also been lifted, the Department of Trade and Industry announced yesterday.

Price controls were automatically enforced upon the declaration of the state of rebellion on July 27, 2003, in accordance with Section 6 of the Price Act (RA 7581).

"This shows that we are moving toward normalcy," businessman Raul Concepcion said. "This should stabilize the foreign exchange market and will allow an environment of business as usual for businessmen," he said.

Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas said the lifting would allow the government to "move back on track and get back to business."

"With this recent development, we can hope to get to the real work of creating an improved economic climate," Roxas said.

Other government officials said the lifting of the state of rebellion would assure Filipino and foreign businessmen that the political and security situation in the country had returned to normal.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said the lifting would "greatly ease the anxiety of the business sector and foreign investors."

It "clearly serves to fully assure our people that the national security situation has stabilized and this development is surely a welcome news to the international community along with domestic businessmen and foreign investors," Vice President Teofisto Guingona said in a statement.

Sen. Majority Leader Loren Legarda believed that the lifting of the state of rebellion "augurs well for the economy, the investment climate and the international image of the country."

Fellow administration Manuel Villar said it was good that the President lifted it, saying "I can't see the point why it was declared in the first place."

Senate President Franklin Drilon said "the lifting of the state of rebellion should put to rest the raging public debate about alleged threats to civil liberties and the liberties of individuals." *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac*

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Top cop wants fellow officer investigated

From page A1

their resources," Lalisan told reporters yesterday.

Camp Crame sources claim that Gil was referring to an officer known for frequently treating media men to bars and restaurants.

The director is also rumored to be the one who floated a radio report that Gil had a hand in the escape of Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from Camp Crame on July 14.

He is said to be aspiring for the top PNP post for which Gil is widely perceived to be a strong contender.

Lalisan, chief of the PNP directorate for personnel records management, said the investigation would include more officers with questionable lifestyles.

The campaign, he said, would also target officials who "spend left and right" at nightclubs or frequent classy hotels.

"The sources of their money are very suspicious," he said.

Berroya

Asked about the Ford Expedition purportedly owned by the controversial Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, chief of the Civil Security Group, Lalisan said: "We'll check if it's really his."

Berroya refused to comment yesterday on the luxury vehicle which he supposedly owns. An Expedition costs about P1.8 million.

Retired police officers, who are still occupying government positions, should also be included in the lifestyle check, according to Gil.

Curious subjects would be those who were victims of a "pyramid scam" involving an investment company, Exsior Enterprises, last year, according to Gil. Some of them, he said, lost as much as P20 million in the "pyramid scam."

"The first question is, 'Where did they get the P20 million?'" he said.

Among the reported victims was Nestorio Gualberto, retired chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, who now heads the Land Transportation Office for Metro Manila.

Defense Secretary Reyes said the construction of his house at the AFP Officers Village Association Inc. in Fort Bonifacio was covered by a loan that he obtained, with his five sons serving as co-signatories. He did not state the amount of the loan.

"I don't have a house to transfer to when I give up my position," he told reporters.

Military service

Reyes, who spoke at the 2nd Management Association of the Philippines International CEO Conference in Makati, said he had not owned a house during his 39 years in the military service and over two years' stint as defense secretary.

The Presidential Anti-Graft Court has asked Reyes to submit documents, including financial statements, within the next few days in connection with the government's lifestyle check on officials.

His real estate property has been the subject of media reports following the July 27 failed mutiny by a band of disgruntled military officers who had complained about lack of housing for active officers, among other gripes.

Reyes said he, too, experienced first-hand the low pay, lack of housing, graft and other concerns raised last month by the mutiny leaders.

"As an officer, I was never able to buy my own home . . . My wife had to sew garments to put five sons to school," he said.

Reyes again rebuffed calls for his resignation. "I'm staying here (his position as defense chief). I'll not oblige. Democracy is a way of life . . . we must fight for it," he said before an audience of industry leaders and businessmen at the Manila Peninsula.

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'Art of war' according to the Bible

From page A1

a welcome "opportunity" for the country to "rise up as a people." Everything that had happened since the failed July 27 mutiny in Makati City only proved that no one "could win against this government," he said.

"I have been able to win (the New People's Army rebels) back into the fold of the law just by reading them the Bible," Saavedra told Baguio-based pastors of different Charismatic groups. They met here to launch the Movement for Righteous Leadership (MRL) in the Cordillera.

Among the preachers who also attended the launching were retired politician Voltaire Acosta, Councilor Galo Weygan, former Tuba Councilor Rabindranath Quilala and retired Senior Supt. Victor Diego, also a former spokesperson of the Cordillera police.

Quilala said the group intended mainly to use "spiritual guidance" to help influence local governance.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr., who organized the event, failed to attend, but his deputy, Alipio Fernandez Jr., distributed on his behalf Bibles to about 20 city police officers.

Fernandez also handed out Bibles to 20 former militiamen of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), who had been integrated into the AFP.

Saavedra said the Bible would come in handy in war because it detailed "all the principles of war" that he had learned from military training.

"I actually regretted studying at the Philippine Military Academy because everything I learned was already in the Bible. I shouldn't have joined the PMA," Saavedra, a member of PMA Class of 1963, said.

A pastor said the group wanted to teach soldiers the value of sacrifice by "learning to accept what they have and (to) live within their means."

Discontent

A source said the July 27 mutiny illustrated the level of discontent among the junior officers over the military's shortage of ammunition, equipment and incentives.

But the source said the military mirrored the kind of unrest in society.

"The soldiers must learn that it is the will of God which is supreme here. That is why there was no bloodshed (during the Makati siege)," the pastor said.

Saavedra said during the MRL launching that soldiers needed to use the Bible to become "winners."

"*Kapag natalo, impyerno tayo* (If us soldiers lose, it will be hell for us). Who will join us after? We also have to accept the reality ... that the Bible makes us ... (genuine) conquerors," he said.

Saavedra said the combination of the Bible and military tactics served him well when he led his own command against insurgents in Mindanao.

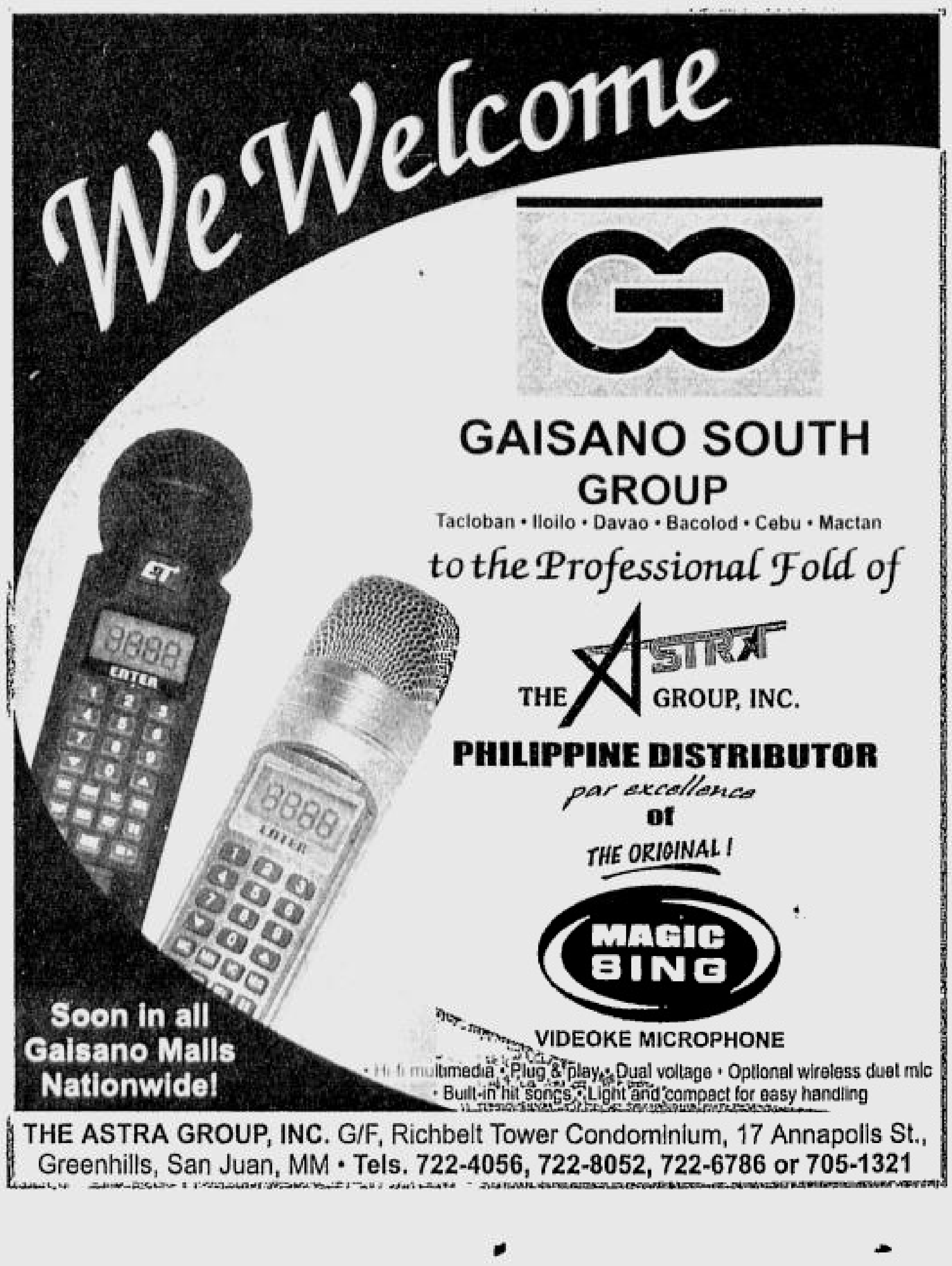
He said the people should rely on Ms Macapagal's policy for a strong republic, although he stressed that the public needed to see reforms being made.

Right-hand weapon

Soldiers, he said, could help make some of these changes by using the Bible as their "right-hand weaponry."

"In normal combat, we refer to the right arm as (an offensive weapon), but I say use the right arm for the Bible and use the (left hand's defensive stance) with little weapons to fend off small attacks," Saavedra said.

"We need to show people that spirituality can shape the new Philippines. We have tried everything but everything turned out to be a dud . . . Let us stand up to graft, let us stand up to communism . . . let us stand up to terrorism . . . But our weapons will not be Armalite rifles. It is the word of God."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'Sick,' solon tags '04 health budget

By Carlito Pablo

AN opposition congressman has decried as a "sick budget" the proposed P10.4-billion outlay for the Department of Health in next year's national general appropriation.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla (LDP, Nueva Vizcaya) yesterday said the allocation is the same as this year's outlay of P10.4 billion, which means that Malacañang crafted a "flat" budget for the DOH despite the need to pump more funds into the public health sector.

Padilla said that while the United Nations Development Program standard for health spending is five percent of a country's gross national product, the Philippines spends only 0.4 percent for health services.

Based on a population of 83.9 million, the P10.4 billion is equivalent to only P124 health spending per Filipino, according to Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (Lakas, Camarines Sur).

Padilla said the DOH needs more funds to deal with the top five causes of sickness and mortality among Filipinos: pneumonia, diarrhea, bronchitis, influenza and tuberculosis.

"The public health indicators in the country suggest a country in the sub-Sahara, not a strong republic," Padilla said.

He said the flat budget means fewer funds for primary health care, government hospitals, and fighting communicable diseases, malnutrition and new ailments like the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Padilla said that as of 2001, infant mortality in the country stood at 31.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.

"This is mainly due to poverty and the lack of adequate basic health services," he said.

Christmas bazaar deadline nears

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THE ALL-NATIONS Women's Group and the Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines will hold their annual pre-Christmas bazaar on Sept. 20 at the Santuario de San Antonio parish social hall, Forbes Park, Makati City.

ANWG president Leonida "Baby" Ortiz and WRMP head Villa Granada de Guia said the deadline for reservations for bazaar concessionaires is Aug. 30.

Bazaar co-chair Ditas Posadas said local and international participants will help to raise funds for projects like scholarships for poor but deserving students in Metro Manila.

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Whitewash?

EDITORIAL

THE GOVERNMENT, it seems, is going hammer and tongs to nail down the July putschists. This is all well and good. But it should take care that the charges stick and it does not botch the case through lack of focus and dispersed efforts.

The direction it is taking seems pointed toward diffusion and perhaps even collusion. How else could one explain its decision to file rebellion charges against the rebel soldiers in civil courts in tandem with the court martial that the putschists are already facing?

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong had earlier warned that the cases might constitute double jeopardy. Obviously, Malacañang did not consult him when it gave the go-signal for state prosecutors, who are under Datumanong, to file the charges with the civil courts.

At first blush, the filing of the charges with the civil courts looks like an effort to cover all the bases. It also looks like a fulfillment of President Macapagal-Arroyo's pledge to apply the full force of the law on those behind the July incident.

The filing may also indicate the deep distrust of the civilian government for military justice. Although the full penalty of a court martial—death by musketry—is harsh, even inhumane (if you are against capital punishment), rebellious soldiers have gotten off lightly, if you go by history. No putschist has ever been court-martialed, it appears. All have been amnestied and rehabilitated. Many of the leaders of the failed coups in the 1980s have either won elective positions or been given juicy civilian positions.

Former President Fidel Ramos reacted quite hysterically to the President's statement that the July incident occurred because administrations after the 1989 coup attempt had not implemented the recommendation of the Davide Commission for the rebel soldiers and coup plotters to be prosecuted and sanctioned. "No coup occurred during my presidency," Ramos said.

He is being facetious perhaps. To be sure, all of the coups in the 1980s occurred during his watch—as chief of staff of the Armed Forces and then defense secretary under the Aquino administration. During his presidency, many rebel officers were rehabilitated and even given high civilian positions.

It is the specter of the past—of a military treated with leniency and even rewarded for destroying the nation—that may so hound the Macapagal administration that it is leaving no stone unturned to exact justice on the July rebels. Give them hell, total hell.

But in its attempt to cover all bases, the government may end up empty-handed.

The filing of the civilian case violates all rules of good sense. If Malacañang is distrustful of the court martial, then it should appoint a crack team of civilian lawyers to oversee the case with the Judge Advocate General's Office so that the full force of the law will be applied on the rebels. Or it can waive the court martial and let the soldiers face the civilian courts.

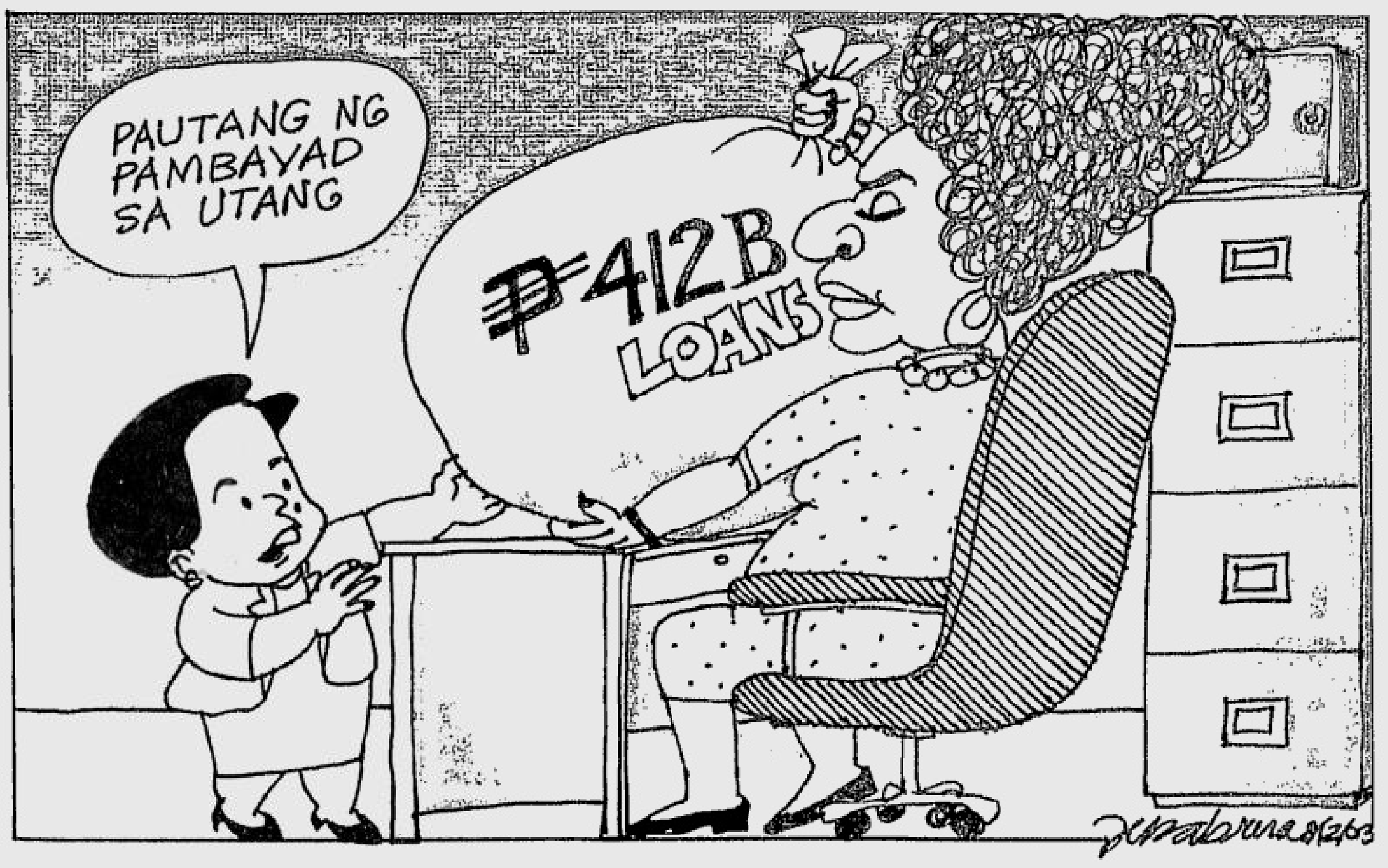
Either way, the government fulfills its promise to get back at the putschists and uphold the constitutional civilian government. Either way, the government does its job with sense, sensibility and economy.

Not surprisingly, Datumanong has taken a 180-degree turn since expressing his misgivings about the filing of the civilian cases. Perhaps appeased by the Palace, he now argues that the cases are still in the preliminary investigation stage, that is, in the state prosecutorial level, so technically, the government still has not committed double jeopardy.

Legal logic like that will really bungle the case against the putschists. To be sure, the case will be elevated to the courts. Any legal rookie can conclude sufficient prima facie evidence exists against the rebels. It is just a matter of time for the courts to take over. And then what? For the case to be dismissed because of the constitutional rule against double jeopardy?

The development is very worrisome. So are we being alarmist and a tad malicious when we suspect a collusion between Malacañang and the military to pave the way for the exoneration of the rebel soldiers? Or at the very least, for them to get off lightly and suffer the same fate as those who had bravely gone before them—to be treated with kid gloves, penalized by push-ups, and eventually, forgiven and rewarded?

Should a whitewash be this elaborate, time-consuming and wasteful?



FPJ can run, but Loi can serve as president

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

DO you know that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can run in next year's presidential elections but it is Mike Arroyo who can be elected president? That way, the President can still fulfill her promise not to serve a second term but still retain the presidency in the family.

Similarly, do you know that Fernando Poe Jr. can run for president next year but it will be Loi Ejercito who can serve as president? So FPJ, who has repeatedly said that he doesn't want to be president, can still run for, but not serve, as president. Impossible? No, it can really happen and it is all legal, too.

It is all because of provisions in our election laws. One provides that a political party can change its candidate at any time, meaning up to the eve of election day itself. And Section 12 of Republic Act No. 8436 provides that "in case of valid substitutions after the official ballots have been printed, the votes cast for the substituted candidates shall be considered votes for the substitutes."

In other words, FPJ, or GMA, can file their certificates of candidacy and campaign for president. A day or two before the election the party will substitute Loi Ejercito as its presidential candidate (or Mike Arroyo in place of GMA). Even if the names of Ejercito and Mike are not on the ballot, all the votes for FPJ will be counted for Loi, and all the votes for GMA will be credited to Mike. The substitution need not even be known to the voters who, on election day, would still be believing that they voted for the candidate of their choice, not knowing that the latter had already been substituted by another candidate to whom their votes will be credited.

In short, RA 8436 can be taken advantaged of by an unknown candidate who will field a very popular personality and then substitute for him at the last minute.

Do you also know that a senator, congressman, governor or mayor, or even a barangay captain, can run for president of the Philippines and, when defeated, return to his old position and serve the balance of his term? Or that a senator (or any other elective public official) can run for a position that he is currently not occupying, say for governor of his province, with his wife or another relative as his vice gubernatorial candidate. If both of them win, the senator can go back to the Senate and let his wife assume the gubernatorial post. *Galing 'no*? The incumbent official loses nothing by running.

It is because of another law, Republic Act 9006 (Fair Election Act of 2001). Its repealing clause provides that Section 67 of the Omnibus Election Code (OEC) is repealed. Section 67 provides that an elective official running for a position other than the one he is currently occupying "shall be considered automatically resigned from office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy."

With the repeal of this section, a senator, congressman, governor, mayor or barangay official running for another position, continues to be a senator, congressman, governor, mayor or barangay captain until the end of his term.

This repealing provision could be unconstitutional since it is obviously a rider in a law on another subject matter. It is a *singit*, a *dagdag* provision. The subject of RA 9006 is the lifting of the political ad ban, but, out of nowhere, it provides that Section 67 of OEC is repealed. Thus, RA 9006 deals with two subject matters, which is unconstitutional. Obviously, some legislator smuggled it in at the last minute when nobody was looking. Or even if somebody noticed, he or they just let it go because it would benefit them.

There is another constitutional provision that makes that repealing clause illegal. It says that legislators cannot benefit from laws that they themselves passed. Laws passed by them, if they would benefit them, always take effect in the next Congress, when their terms have already expired. This is to prevent legislators from passing laws that would benefit them, like increasing salaries or allowances, for instance.

Furthermore, this repealing clause bolsters the growth of political dynasties, for reasons already stated, thus violating again the Constitution.

Section 26, Article II of the Constitution prohibits "political dynasties as may be defined by law." In other words, Congress has to pass a law defining the scope of political dynasties. Without such a law, politicians can continue fielding their relatives as there is still no law prohibiting them from doing so. But who is the legislator who will push such a bill in Congress?

And who is the legislator who will push for an amendment to Section 12 of RA 8436 on the appreciation of ballots in case of substitution of candidates?

Curiously, both the Comelec and election experts admit that the two provisions are defective. Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, Commissioner Resurrecion Borra and election lawyer Romulo Makalintal, who were the panelists at yesterday's Kapihan sa Manila forum, agreed that these provisions should be repealed and/or amended, and the repealing clause questioned as unconstitutional before the Supreme Court. But who is the legislator or lawyer who will do that?

* * *

Today's joke:

Rebel Soldier: Senator, you promised us millions, even billions of pesos if we mounted a coup. *Nasaan na?*

Senator: *'Di lang billiones ang ibinigay ko sa inyo, no. Trillanes pa!*

Nice one

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I HEARD Fernando Poe Jr. was running after all a month or so ago. It was from someone who said he had it from a very reliable source. I took it with a grain of salt. I've heard too many things from people who say they have them from a very reliable source to take it for gospel truth.

But the rumor persisted. Last week, it took on a more formidable note when someone told me that FPJ had in fact spoken to him to ask what he thought of his running. My friend said the first thing he asked was why. FPJ replied that he was as qualified as everybody else. Certainly, there were no barriers to his running for president.

My friend asked if it had to do with Erap. FPJ said no, he was doing it on his own. He wasn't running just so he could pardon Erap after he wins. In the first place, he said, he was not beholden to Erap. Erap was a good friend, but he had never turned to him for help, or to ask for a favor. He had even made it a point to shy away from Malacañang when it turned into a shysters' paradise, ruled by the so-called "midnight Cabinet." Much to Erap's chagrin: Erap kept asking him why he no longer dropped by for coffee—or something stronger. If anyone owed anyone, it was more Erap him than he Erap.

In any case, FPJ said, there were courts for that. Whatever the courts decided, he'd enforce.

My friend remained skeptical. As well he should. The part about Erap, I don't buy at all. That is because if FPJ runs and wins, as he (both) threatens to do, he won't need to do anything for Erap. Everyone will do it for him. If I remember right, two months before the May 1998 presidential elections, the Supreme Court itself suddenly ruled to give Danding Cojuangco, one of Erap's staunchest supporters, his controversial shares in San Miguel. Before that, the justices had issued one temporary restraining order after another to block his path. Two months before the 1998 elections, it was already clear Erap was a shoo-in.

There is such a thing as natural expectation. People act according to those expectations. Worse, there is such a thing as sucking up to those in power. Many Filipino officials, not least judges, do it.

No, FPJ wins, Erap is free. No, more than that, FPJ wins, Erap is back.

But I will not disparage FPJ, or question his ability and integrity, to keep him from running. It is not only that he is entitled to run as much as any citizen. It is not only that he enjoys a good reputation in the community he has worked in. It is that I might encourage him if I did. I know a mayor who did just that. A fairly decent sort who was the undefeated mayor of his town before he decided to become an overseas Filipino worker because being a mayor did not pay (that alone should say he was decent) he came home to his town only to hear the incumbent repeatedly tell everyone he had done so to run again. His denials went for naught, the incumbent, seeking to preempt his running, besmirching his reputation at every turn. Out of pique, he ran. And won.

What can I say? I think FPJ is a very nice man.

I understand that the only person who does not want him to run is his wife. Well, trust wives to have better instincts than husbands. Which should refute the notion women tend to be more emotional than men. That is looking at things with 20-20 vision. I will not appeal to his love of country, I will only appeal to his love of self. Running for the president offers him more losses than gain. It is not a question of: What doth it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul? It's a question of: What doth it profit the "Panday" if he gains the castle but loses his smithy?

First off, he loses the movies. I know this country has bent all the rules to accommodate the most startling things. Can anything be sillier than Noli de Castro, a senator, turning TV host to interview the president? Never mind the separation of powers, think only of personal dignity. But even this country will probably draw the line at a president acting in or even directing a movie. There is no law against it, but that is an affront to sense and sensibility. Unlike Erap, FPJ continues to make movies, which still make a killing at the tills. That is something he will have to give up if he runs for president and wins. You can't have your cake and eat it too. You can't act as president and press your act at the same time.

More than that, he loses his privacy. That's what makes FPJ even more unlike Erap. Erap went to public life early, little fearing his life would be ransacked by media the way a stolen handbag is ransacked by thieves. He never kept his philandering a secret, only his pilfering. FPJ has kept his life away from the prying eyes of media. No movie scribe dares print anything against him or indeed about him. He runs, his life is not going to stay private. The rest of media is not as fearful or obsequious, and won't be deterred by a no-trespassing sign. Politics is an open invitation to scrutiny, to begin with.

Of course, I've heard some people say: "So what? Let them pry, they won't find anything against him. Or anything really scandalous." But that's where the true beauty of it lies, which should be poetic irony for someone involved in creating fantasy. It's not just that the unwanted attention can be annoying, it's that the small—and not the big things—are the ones that kill. What do they say? You kill a man, that is murder; you massacre people, that is war. That is doubly so for someone reputed to be virtuous. No one is going to mind that Erap has 20 mistresses, everyone will mind that FPJ has one-half. The smallest indiscretion [illegible] tion takes on the aspect of betrayal. Vir[illegible] isn't always a virtue, sometimes it's a b[illegible]

But I'll stop here and just [illegible] FPJ is a very nice man.

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Belly-achers

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I HEARD the recent airport interview of former President Fidel V. Ramos upon his arrival from a foreign trip where he had some harsh words for Sen. Gregorio Honasan. FVR, who has been accused by some critics of having been soft on Honasan and other coup plotters of an earlier generation, opined that the former Army lieutenant colonel could no longer be considered an "idealistic soldier" but "an ambitious politician" who had "poisoned the minds of idealistic officers" so that they ended up being utilized by politicians "with hidden agenda." Ramos lamented that Honasan had been given a second chance during his administration to give up the armed struggle and he was able to become a two-term senator, but unfortunately, despite this rare chance, he refused to give up his plotting against the government using force and violence. Really a tragic figure.

By the way, I queried a member of PMA Class '95 about how many in their class joined the failed rebellion and he said that of the 214 graduates about 30 members were involved. Let's salute the over 85 percent of Class '95 who stood steadfastly by the government and the Constitution. They and the rest of the officer corps who remained faithful to their PMA pledge are the real heroes, not Honasan and the misguided rebels.

* * *

Honasan seems unrepentant. Last weekend I ran into a friend involved in one of the Guardians factions and he related that the senator has been trying to work on his group, which was not involved in the Magdalo rebellion. Honasan has been trying to get them to join a second destabilization effort he's cooking up. This Guardian leader is very much aware, however, that such misadventures can only lead to more disasters and hardships for the country. For instance, a big bakeshop chain lost about P150,000 to P200,000 in revenues on that one day of rebellion alone, but that's just a tiny fraction of the economic opportunities lost. Neda estimates that each Filipino will pay P9,000 as a direct cost of that rebellion.

* * *

Star columnist Amy Pamintuan wrote that government is consolidating data that will show that some of the "idealistic young officers" may not be all that idealistic. She mentioned that rebel leader Antonio Trillanes IV may have to explain some wealth he accumulated during his short stint in the Navy. In this connection, officials of an exclusive luxury beach resort south of Manila are talking about how the wife of a politician implicated with the rebels paid P10-million spot cash for a piece of land in that resort three months ago, whereas even big-salaried Makati executives are negotiating for payment on installment. By the way, my sources indicate that many politicians of various stripes have invested heavily in property purchases in various luxury resorts, and one theory is that some are laundering ill-gotten funds. Another is that they plan to unload those properties before the elections and use the profit to fund their political campaign.

* * *

One grievance of the Oakwood rebels is the low pay of officers and soldiers, but the fact is that their pay scales are being increased quickly. In fact, as President Macapagal explained at the Manila Overseas Press Club, the salary increases for policemen took 10 years to fully implement, whereas those for military men will take only two years. Then, too, those in the military service should know that their salaries will be lower than those of their civilian counterparts, as is true of the military all over the world. I was at a recent reunion of PMA Class '61 to which my husband belongs, and we wives reminisced about the good old days when our husbands were lieutenants and captains driving *karag-karag* cars and many of us were living in rented apartments or with in-laws. We didn't remember our husbands ever belly aching the way the young officers now do, and yet the latter drive new cars, get to dine in expensive Japanese restaurants and live in nice military townhouses.

* * *

When we got married, my husband's pay was P180 a month while I was already earning close to P1,000 a month as special projects officer at the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation. Marriage caused me to resign, but living from one cash advance to the next soon made me realize I had to work to augment our income if I wanted to give our children the same quality education my hard-working parents gave me. I joined an insurance agency operated by my brother Ed Olivares and sold insurance to all my fellow UP graduates, and later did the same for a memorial agency operated by another brother, Rudy, even as I began writing features for two newspapers. I made what looked like big money then.

* * *

Then I stumbled upon a fabulous business in those years: antiques. Just before martial law, I put up an antique retail shop as well as an antique repair shop in Quezon City, which serviced many of the big dealers in Manila. I built it up and continued it for many years, enabling us to live comfortably and send our children to Ateneo and Maryknoll. As the political cataclysm engulfed the country with Ninoy Aquino's martyrdom 20 years ago, however, I closed down my shops and took to the parliament of the streets. Soon I was writing for Eggie Apostol's Mr. & Ms. magazine and never left journalism since.

At the necrological services for the late Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, recalled the successful piggery business that Ileto put up in Rizal to augment his low pay as he raised a big family. Abaya said Ileto's piggery business served as inspiration for a lot of junior officers on how to survive. That's the way to survive: get your wife or family to work on a legitimate "sideline," not concoct coup plots.

'Papa, kasama ka!'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

CONTRARY to what I wrote in this space last Aug. 2, there were other celebrations to mark Family Planning Day last Aug. 1, aside from the assembly organized by the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines.

But instead of holding a single national event, as had been the practice in previous years, the day was marked instead by celebrations at the local level around the country and highlighting more effective methods of contraception.

Here's a brief rundown of the celebrations supported by the Social Acceptance Project funded by the US Agency for International Development.

In Cebu, there was a motorcade around the city, winding up in front of City Hall where an 800-person contingent met the participants.

At the assembly that followed, local officials, including Vice Mayors Michael Rama (Cebu City) and Norma Patalinghug (Lapu-lapu City) and Councilor Ben Veride (Mandaue City) delivered inspirational messages.

Highlights of the program were the testimonies of couples currently practicing family planning. The first testimony was given by German national Helmut Haas. He said he opted for vasectomy because he loved his Filipina wife and wanted to look after her health. Also sharing her experiences was a 41-year-old housewife, Teresita Baluca, who has two children. She said she and her husband use the condom as their family planning method and they are very satisfied with it.

* * *

SAN JUAN was the center of the Metro Manila celebrations, with the theme "Papa, kasama ka ... sa pagpaplano ng pamilya." The celebration was opened with a motorcade participated in by the 21 barangays of San Juan, representatives of local government units and government agencies in the National Capital Region, as well as NGOs involved in reproductive health.

Fourteen organizations submitted entries to the slogan-making contest. The winning (and amusing) entries were: KATINIG's "Tigasing Papa patunayan mo na, sa pagpaplano ng pamilya sumama ka na!" (first place), Marikina PPMO's "Ang machong tatay...tagapanguna sa pagpaplano ng malusog, masaya at maginhawang pamilya!" (second place), and WPFI's "Wais si Papa ... kaya di laging buntis si Mama!"

There were exhibits on family planning IEC materials and services in San Juan and a Forum on Men's Responsible Involvement in Family Planning at the San Juan Gym. Five men, including Dr. Jondi Flavier of FriendlyCare, testified on their vasectomy experiences. Rhodora Enage and Annalisa Sullano, wives of two of the men who testified, gave their own glowing endorsements of vasectomy, saying the procedure had in fact made their spouses more caring and affectionate.

Mayor JV Ejercito, the keynote speaker, said that the government needs strong Population Management and Family Planning Programs to respond to the unmet need of men and women of reproductive age.

* * *

A YOUTH forum with the theme "Gen-Sex: Symposium on Youth, Family and Sexuality," was held at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. More than 800 students listened to lectures on youth sexuality and parent-child relationship given by Dr. Corazon Raymundo of the UP Population Institute and Dr. Lourdes Arellano-Carandang, former chair of the Ateneo psychology department. TV broadcaster Ces Orena-Drilon moderated.

In Quezon City, Mayor Sonny Belmonte and Councilor Aiko Melendez together with the barangay leaders of Payatas observed their Family Planning Day with a theme "SULONG BAYAN: Pamilya'y Pagplahunan." NSV clients from Payatas gave testimonies during the forum.

In Negros Oriental, the celebration was spearheaded by the Negros Oriental FP/RH Advocacy Network (NeOFPRHAN) in collaboration with the Provincial Population Office and the municipal governments of Manjuyod and La Libertad. The theme of the celebration was "Responsible Parenthood: Happy and Healthy Together."

Group discussions on FP at the marketplace was moderated by the midwives of the Rural Health Center and testimonies of two NSV acceptors.

In La Libertad, Negros Oriental, Mayor Laurence Limchaichong celebrated FP Day by making available bilateral tubal ligation and no-scalpel vasectomy services in his municipality. At the end of the two-day activity, a total of 19 men and 18 women had undergone permanent sterilization.

* * *

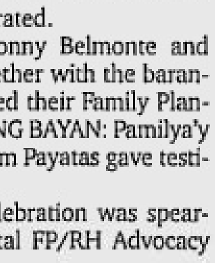
MICHELLE Parazo-Borromeo, consumer marketing manager of Levi Strauss and Co. in the Philippines, writes to clarify certain matters regarding the company and Karayom Garment Mfg. Inc., which I had written about in relation to a labor dispute.

"Levi Strauss & Co. was one of several apparel companies that had been sourcing from Karayom Garment Mfg. Inc.," she writes. "However, we formally ended our relationship with Karayom after their delivery of our last order from them in December 2002. Since then, we have not placed any fresh orders, nor have we had any business dealings with Karayom, their owners or their affiliates."

Parazo-Borromeo says that they "share (my) concern over the closure of this factory and the effect it has had on its workers, and hope that an equitable settlement will be reached in accordance with the Department of Labor and the legal system in the Philippines." At the same, she reiterates that Levi Strauss & Co. "expects all manufacturing contractors producing our products to comply with local labor requirements, as well as our own code of conduct which covers employment practices, legal and environmental requirements, ethical standards and community involvement. These terms of engagement are monitored and strictly enforced as a key requirement of business partnership with us."

Dog Days of August

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Bambi L. Harper

MOST people wouldn't find anything significant about the 13th of August. My brother was born on that date but that wouldn't make it particularly memorable for most people. Let me just remind you because it's one of those dates not celebrated by either side and fast receding into the dustbin of history. On Aug. 13, 1898, Manila was surrendered to the Americans.

I've had this book "Harper's History of the War in the Philippines" for something like 20 years and never got around to reading it. Finally I decided it was about time I did even if there's a "behind the scenes story," that someone else can tell. So let me recount what supposedly happened that fateful Saturday 104 years ago from Correspondent J.F Bass' point of view.

The southwest monsoon had been blowing for a week and Aguinaldo's men had driven the Spaniards back nearly 20 miles off country into the Malate trenches. Aguinaldo had saved American troops from a lot of hard fighting over thorny bamboo and heavy shrub, over paddy-fields and mud holes. Filipino troops had barricaded every road and foot-path clear around Manila and the Spanish forces were hemmed in. Defeat for the Spaniards was just a question of time.

Prior to that, the Americans had ran into Gen. Mariano Noriel and Lieutenant Col. Juan Cailles who offered to take them to the front but not before dropping by the house of a friend of Noriel's in Parañaque for something to eat. After they drank the soup which was all there was, Noriel insisted that they had to see a cock-fight before proceeding. The battle was fought in the street with one rooster called Filipino and everyone betting on him and laughing and cheering when he killed his antagonist called *kastila*.

The Americans were entrenched by the sea in Pasay where Spanish rifle pits near the sea shore had been abandoned. Between their lines and the suburbs of Malate and Singalong were impassable rice fields intersected by Calle Real leading to Manila. With the rains, the roads were canals of mud that only native carts could pass. *Cascos* were landing more American troops from Cavite who stripped and jumped into the surf rather than be dashed and smashed with the vessel. Every article of clothing was drenched and some of the men hadn't been dry for days. As soon as they landed, what looked like hundreds of natives gathered on the beach selling fruits and tobacco.

The Americans were aware at this point that this was the only road to the city and that they had to get ahead of Aguinaldo's men supposedly to stop "the plunder and outrage." They waited anxiously for the Monterey and the Monadnock to arrive to fight the Spanish 10-inch guns and the German battle ships, if necessary, which lay threatening with the other foreign vessels on Manila Bay.

On Aug. 13 when they thought they would never see Intramuros, the orders came for the First Brigade under General MacArthur on the right and the Second Brigade under General Greene on the left to move up into the trenches at 6:30 a.m. Reserves were to stay 800 yards behind. The combined attack by sea and land was to take place at 10:00 o'clock. Shouldering their rifles and knapsacks with two day's rations and 200 rounds of ammunition, regiment after regiment splashed through marshy fields and mud holes to get to the trenches. All of a sudden the rains came thundering down. The fields turned into lakes and the roads into muddy pools.

Men in the trenches suffered the slimy oozing mire, practically floating in rainwater. Two hundred yards distant, the Spanish trenches lay waiting although in that downpour everything was a blur. A certain Lieutenant Fiske thought the enemy might have deserted their positions and ventured forward into the open. Immediately a dozen Spaniards rose shooting at the lieutenant who in turn run for his life. Two volleys followed and a dull boom from the bay announced that the battle was on.

A hundred yards from shore General Greene from an old monastery (Malate's?) issued his orders and watched the fleet steaming up to the city while Major Bell, head of information, was positioned atop the building. The gunboat Callao, captured from the Spanish, steamed beside the Petrel firing at the Spanish trenches in front of Malate church specifically targeting Fort San Antonio Abad.

The three-inch guns of the Utah Battery opened fire with white puffs of smoke ballooning into the air until the big guns of the fleet begun to bellow. Geysers of water blew up into the air where the shells hit the shore. The guns in the fort were silent though, as well as the ones in the Luneta. Even the Spanish trenches seemed deserted. Suddenly, a great shell smashed into the front of the Spanish trenches and when the smoke cleared the soldiers sped away.

The men of the First Company Colorado under Colonel Hale, up to their chests in water, forded the stream beside Fort San Antonio with their rifles held over their heads to keep them dry. At 25 yards from the fort, the flag-ship Olympia, about 3000 yards from shore, sent a single shell from one of her 8-inch guns that cut along the wall of the fort, driving out any remaining Spaniards. There was a dash for the wall and a scramble to get in. On the walls of Manila the white flag of surrender flew.

The call

YOUNG BLOOD

Freedom Ianfe M. Navidad

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY "Brokenvow" ringing tone awakened me from a not-so-deep slumber. At first, I did not want to answer the call. It was 8 in the morning, and I only had three hours of sleep. I had stayed up late the night before to read my law books and case assignments. But it was my mom calling, and so I forced myself to answer the phone. There must be some emergency, I thought, because she was calling me at a time when she knew I would still be asleep. It turned out, she had heard of the coup in Makati, not very far from where I lived.

At first, I did not care..I did not want to get up and watch the news as it happened on TV. What's new? This country seemed to busy itself with dramas like this—coups, people power, rallies and the like—and I was tired of them all. I had my own concerns: daily recitations in class and approaching mid-term examinations.

I thought I did not care anymore, but I was wrong. Not much later I found myself witnessing the "Crisis in Makati" unfold. I thought I had lost the yearning for change and the desire for reform, but I was wrong.

Many of the things I saw in Lt. (s.g.) Sonny Trillanes, Capt. Gerardo Gambala and all the other young officers and enlisted personnel changed my apathetic and apolitical disposition. I was awakened to reality not only by my mom's phone call, but by their courage in fighting for their principles, their demand to put an end to graft and corruption and their hunger for an ideal government.

I used to be very idealistic. I was raised by a father who was a political prisoner during the Marcos era. I took my undergraduate studies at the University of the Philippines, where I was taught to be a voice for the grieving and the less fortunate. In my younger days, I was an activist calling for a government that would embody my ideals and aspirations.

My idealism died after I graduated. I went to law school, thinking that it would help me push the changes I wanted. But after one a year, I had been swallowed by the system and became apolitical and apathetic. I grew tired of crying for reforms that would never materialize and dreams that would never be realized. The outside world was no longer my concern. I was engrossed in my studies. Instead of reading and watching the news, I memorized statutory provisions to prepare for my classes. I was confined in my own world and I didn't bother with what was outside of it. Or if I cared about anything, I did not bother to do anything about it.

The gentlemen at Oakwood did something to me. Suddenly, I was concerned again and I began to care. It's not that I tolerated what they did, but I understood why they did it. I believed in the Constitution, and believed that there were other legitimate means for them to air their grievances. I believed that soldiers were supposed not to engage politics, and to uphold and defend the Constitution. But like many people my age, I could not totally blame them.

Perhaps, they have grown weary of being neutral and going unheard. The members of our Armed Forces are not robots. More than being soldiers, they are Filipinos like us, and they are one with us in wanting good governance. They are humans, who have gotten tired of a corrupt and ailing government. They have their own visions for this country and we cannot expect them to pretend not to care. There may be legitimate grievance mechanisms available to them, but can these effectively address their concerns? If they can, why then did their grievances remain?

Most of these young officers are graduates of the country's military academy. They are bright and idealistic and possess leadership skills. A very bright future and opportunities awaited them. But they sacrificed it all, in the same way that they were willing to sacrifice their lives in the battlefield. Unlike most of us, they spent more time in the field and in the barracks than with their families. They did not eat the kind of food ordinary people eat. Because of all their sacrifices, they deserved more than that.

It took the "mutineers" to open my eyes of this sad reality. I used to look at military men as heartless souls with threatening weapons. I was wrong. Members of our Armed Forces laugh and weep just like the rest of us.

I know that the means the young officers employed could not be justified by the ends they desired. But I understand their disillusionment. It was the same thing that drove us to Edsa in 1986 and 2001, shouting "*Tama na, sobra na.*"

Had these gentlemen stayed in Oakwood long enough, I believe that a lot of people would have gone there and transformed Ayala Avenue into an Edsa. But after realizing the noise they had created was loud enough to be heard by those for whose ears it was meant, they agreed to "return to barracks." They did not give up and they did not bow to superior might. They made the Filipino people think deeply and reflect on what they wanted.

Some of the soldiers left Oakwood disappointed. They felt that the people did not support their cause. "The people have chosen such a path," Trillanes said . "So be it. They deserve the government they got."

He was wrong. We did not choose this path. We do not deserve the government we have. Their call did not go unheeded. The people have heard what they had to say and they did not go unsupported. Maybe the people have grown weary of airing out their grievances and knowing that things would not change. Maybe the majority did not approve of the way they expressed their desire for change and reform. But most of us, deep in our hearts, were one with them. We shared their sentiments and believed in their cause.

What these young officers and soldiers did, taught many of us to never settle for anything less than the ideal. Their strong sense of patriotism, deep conviction, unflinching courage and selfless idealism inspired even the most apathetic people like me. They may not get everything they want. But surely some positive things will come out of what they did. Things will change.

For one thing, I have changed. I am no longer the apathetic person I had become. The President heard them and ordered an investigation of their allegations and grievances. Civil society has awakened once more.

The Magdalo group proved that even in the midst of crisis, the idealism of our youth remains. The youth still dream, still hope and still believe in their capacity to effect changes. They can still make a difference.

Freedom Ianfe M. Navidad, 21, is a sophomore at the Ateneo Law School.

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Against coups but not for warrantless arrests

THERE is no parity of circumstances between the coup attempts against the Cory administration, particularly, the December 1989 coup try and the Makati incident where a handful of junior officers and their men seized a hotel.

The coup attempts against Cory were serious and had widespread support among the military. The Makati incident, even if it were called a coup, was pitifully planned, amateurishly mounted and only had minimal support among the military, and hardly any among civilians.

Moreover, Cory used all constitutional means at her command to suppress the coup attempts which elicited the support of the Senators, then, including myself.

Gloria, on the other hand, resorts to ill-defined, if not outright, unconstitutional methods like the proclamation of a state of rebellion to justify warrantless arrests of civilians. Incidentally, the government assurance that Senator Gregorio Honasan would not be arrested without a judicial warrant flies into the face of the equal protection clause of the Constitution. What is accorded to the senator should also be accorded to the lowliest citizen even if he or she is suspected of involvement in the Makati incident.

That said, let it be put on record that the Senate has condemned the Makati incident. We have done so unanimously, including us, the aging senators. By condemning the Makati armed exercise, we expressed support for the present administration even as we also said that the grievances of the junior officers concerned must be addressed fully with dispatch and sincerity.

In supporting the government and the Constitution, there is no requirement that we express that support in terms of fawning sycophancy. Otherwise, we diminish the independence of the Senate and demean its institutional integrity.

Finally, for heaven's sake, Gloria is not Cory!

—**AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.**

Action on non-remittance of SSS contributions

THIS is regarding a series of news articles in the INQUIRER on the alleged non-remittance of SSS contributions by Anvil Ensembles, a garments factory in Taytay, Rizal.

The article cited complaints from the workers that the company deducted various amounts from their salaries for contributions, but the remittances were incomplete.

We have looked at the SSS records on the company. Anvil has been remitting the SSS contributions of some employees.

Recently, we met with Anvil's management which has shown interest in cooperating with the Social Security System to ensure the coverage of all its employees.

The SSS is taking the necessary actions to protect the interest and welfare of its members.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City

Unproductive holidays

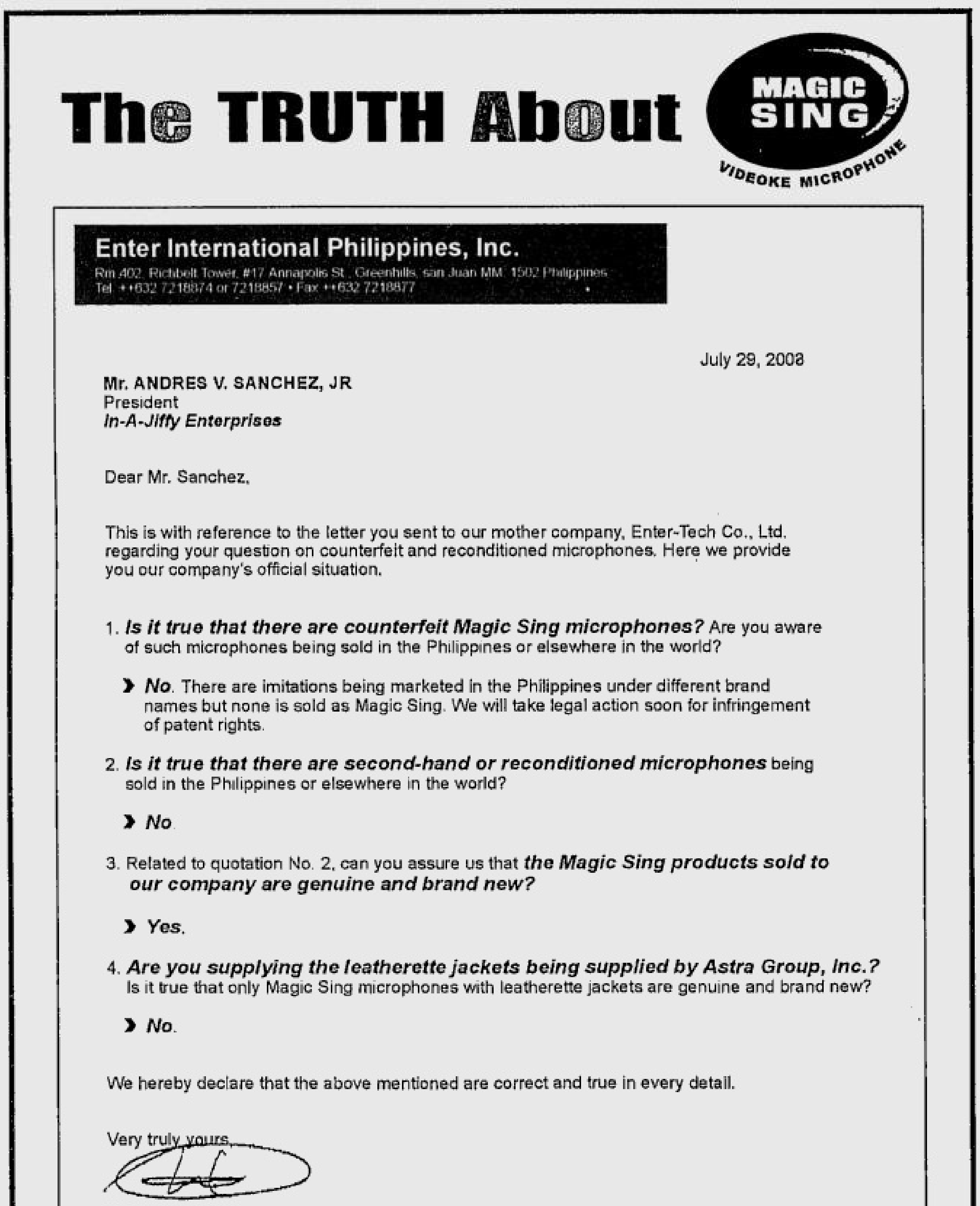
ON JULY 11, 2003, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared Aug. 22, 2003 a special non-working holiday to give the public a three-day weekend while commemorating the 20th death anniversary of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., in line with the administration's holiday economics.

There must be something wrong: Special holidays, on top of the 11 regular holidays every year, are wasted working days. There is no production, no output. Additional holidays only tend to aggravate the economic crisis.

According to letter-writer Paul R. Mortel, there are 21 million SSS members and 1.5 million GSIS members. If they are each receiving just the minimum salary of P200 a day, the combined total of their salaries would be P4.5 billion.

Was the holiday declaration a political gimmick to court the support of the August Twenty One Movement (ATOM) members? Former Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada did not declare Aug. 21 a non-working holiday.

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
92 Paraiso St.,
Parang, Marikina


The TRUTH About MAGIC SING VIDEOKE MICROPHONE

Enter International Philippines, Inc.
Rm 402, Richbelt Tower, #17 Annapolis St., Greenhills, san Juan MM 1502 Philippines
Tel ++632 7218874 or 7218857 • Fax ++632 7218877

July 29, 2003

Mr. ANDRES V. SANCHEZ, JR
President
In-A-Jiffy Enterprises

Dear Mr. Sanchez,

This is with reference to the letter you sent to our mother company, Enter-Tech Co., Ltd. regarding your question on counterfeit and reconditioned microphones. Here we provide you our company's official situation.

1. ***Is it true that there are counterfeit Magic Sing microphones?*** Are you aware of such microphones being sold in the Philippines or elsewhere in the world?
   - ***No***. There are imitations being marketed in the Philippines under different brand names but none is sold as Magic Sing. We will take legal action soon for infringement of patent rights.
2. ***Is it true that there are second-hand or reconditioned microphones*** being sold in the Philippines or elsewhere in the world?
   - ***No***.
3. Related to quotation No. 2, can you assure us that ***the Magic Sing products sold to our company are genuine and brand new?***
   - ***Yes***.
4. ***Are you supplying the leatherette jackets being supplied by Astra Group, Inc.?*** Is it true that only Magic Sing microphones with leatherette jackets are genuine and brand new?
   - ***No***.

We hereby declare that the above mentioned are correct and true in every detail.

Very truly yours,

MR. PETER KIM
Vice President of EIP

For further clarifications pertaining to the authenticity of Magic Sing Products sold by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises, call:

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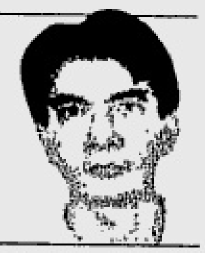
Hungry ghosts

EXPECT fewer cars on the road tonight as ethnic Chinese stay home, to be safe. Today is the 15th day of the 7th lunar month, the feast of the hungry ghosts.

Today, and particularly tonight, is supposed to be the most dangerous day of the year, when the spirit world allows hungry ghosts to roam the world with impunity. This is why ethnic Chinese all over the world will offer incense, food, wine and "spirit money" to try to placate these ghosts. If satiated, they'll return peacefully to barracks, oops, I meant back into the spirit world. If they remain hungry, then they wreak havoc, causing accidents and disasters.

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Even younger ethnic Chinese, myself included (smile), are aware of these hungry ghosts, which is actually associated with the entire 7th lunar month. The month, which this year extends from July 29 to August 27, is considered inauspicious, with the first half (ending today) being the most dangerous.

Marriages are discouraged because it means a bad start to marital life. Travel is discouraged (I remember for the longest time ever, my parents would get quite anxious if I had to go off on a trip during this 7th lunar month because accidents are said to occur more frequently, presumably as hungry ghosts look for victims). On the 15th day itself, many Chinese will avoid going out at night unless absolutely necessary.

Business people are especially wary, reluctant to start any kind of new venture during the month. One can imagine how economic activities in Asia stall this month, from stockmarket trading to new investments, all because of a Chinese fear of the ghosts! (Typically Chinese though, some young Singaporeans have taken advantage of this ghost-mania by producing documentaries about Chinese death rituals and the hungry ghosts, all being featured this month on Discovery channel.)

As an anthropologist, I look at all this as reflecting the way the Chinese emphasize ties with ancestors. Over the centuries, they've built an entire complex of practices around the dead, of which this hungry-ghosts festival is only a part. Many of these practices are found among Filipinos as well, the result of cultural exchanges through the last few centuries.

We see long wakes and elaborate funerals, often meant more for public consumption. These wakes and funerals are almost festive, noisy and boisterous with religious ceremonies (for insurance, Christian, Buddhist, Taoist), music bands and professional mourners wailing away and extolling the dead's virtues. (Quite often, too, hitherto unknown families of deceased males show up—wives and children—exposing the dead's vices and adding to the melodrama.)

The funeral itself can take the entire day, with long processions, more wailing and fainting and hysteria. Symbolic grave goods are burned together with lots of spirit money, in denominations of millions of dollars (never pesos, mind you—I imagine pesos don't have too much value even in the next life). Paper replicas of houses, cars, furniture and lately, electronic appliances are burned to accompany the dead and mind you, we're talking here of mansions, BMWs and Sony appliances.

I doubt if anyone really believes the spirits need their spiritual DVD players in the next life, but these rituals have to be performed because they've become part of society's collective habits.

The French philosopher and sociologist, Pierre Bourdieu, uses a fancy term, *habitus*, to refer to these social imperatives. Filipinos would put it as *walang mawawala*, you don't lose anything by performing the rituals, but not performing them could have consequences, sometimes quite dire in nature. Socially, death is just so disruptive an event that cultures end up formulating elaborate rituals, much more for the sake of the living rather than the dead.

Chinese wakes and funerals become an occasion to assert one's status in society—the richer a family (or the richer one wants to look), the more opulent the funerals. Some families will have "rewind" burials, exhuming remains after a few years and burying the remains with much pomp, these secondary and tertiary burials becoming occasions for reasserting one's status in the community and bringing family members together.

The funerals also become an occasion for statuses to be reaffirmed within the clan, reflected in the strict rules around the funerals about who gets to wear what mourning clothes, who gets to walk on what side of the cortege, who first enters the cemetery. Not surprisingly, males get to perform many of the main rituals—the eldest son, for example, is the first to enter the cemetery, carrying a picture of his deceased parent, a way of proclaiming he is now head of the clan.

What about the hungry ghosts? My interpretation here is that the designation of an entire 7th lunar month to the ghosts becomes a powerful reminder to the Chinese of the need to remember the dead. In the name of filial piety, ties are maintained with the deceased for several generations.

I tend to be more secular about all these matters, feeling that we can dispense with many of the rituals and irrational fears and instead look more deeply into the meanings of these beliefs.

My interpretation of all these death beliefs and practices is that they are there to remind us of the need to keep ties with, and to learn, from those who have come before us. Neglecting the past, transformed into a metaphor of not feeding the ghosts, leaves us without our moral and social compasses. We drift alone, in futile battles with the ghosts within us, blind to the wisdom left behind by our ancestors. In the end, it is arrogance—a belief that we do not need culture and our past—that consumes the living.

* * *

Correction on phone number for the Atang de la Rama tape: Sorry but I didn't have my reading glasses when I was copying the phone number of Tawid, the producers of the vintage Atang de la Rama tape. Here are two numbers, which I hope I'm reading correctly: 426-0578 and 937-8296. Please keep trying if no one answers. The Tawid people also go out lecturing about music appreciation.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Taylor heads for Nigeria exile, slams US

MONROVIA, Liberia—Charles Taylor, Liberia's warlord president, on Monday headed for exile in Nigeria as the war-weary citizens of his battered west African republic prayed for an end to 14 years of almost uninterrupted bloodshed.

On Sunday, in a televised address to the nation, Taylor blamed the United States for Liberia's predicament, but repeated his promise to stand down on Monday at 11:59 a.m. in the presence of fellow African leaders.

"I am being forced into exile. I am standing down from office from my own volition . . . but I am being forced into exile by a superpower," he said. "God willing, I will be back."

West African and US mediators hope that Taylor's resignation and his promised departure from the country will breath a new lease of life into peace talks between his embattled government and two powerful rebel movements.

But some figures in the besieged capital Monrovia warned that the immediate impact of his resignation could be a wave of looting and revenge killings by his desperate, ragtag army of teenage gunmen and the advancing rebels.

The 55-year-old leader, who has been indicted for war crimes by a UN-mandated court, is due to hand over power to his vice president, Moses Blah, a former guerrilla leader who fought alongside Taylor in a Libyan-trained rebel movement that in 1989 triggered a bloody civil war.

After Taylor's conquest of power was confirmed by a 1997 election a new generation of rebels, dubbing themselves Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), launched a new revolution against his role.

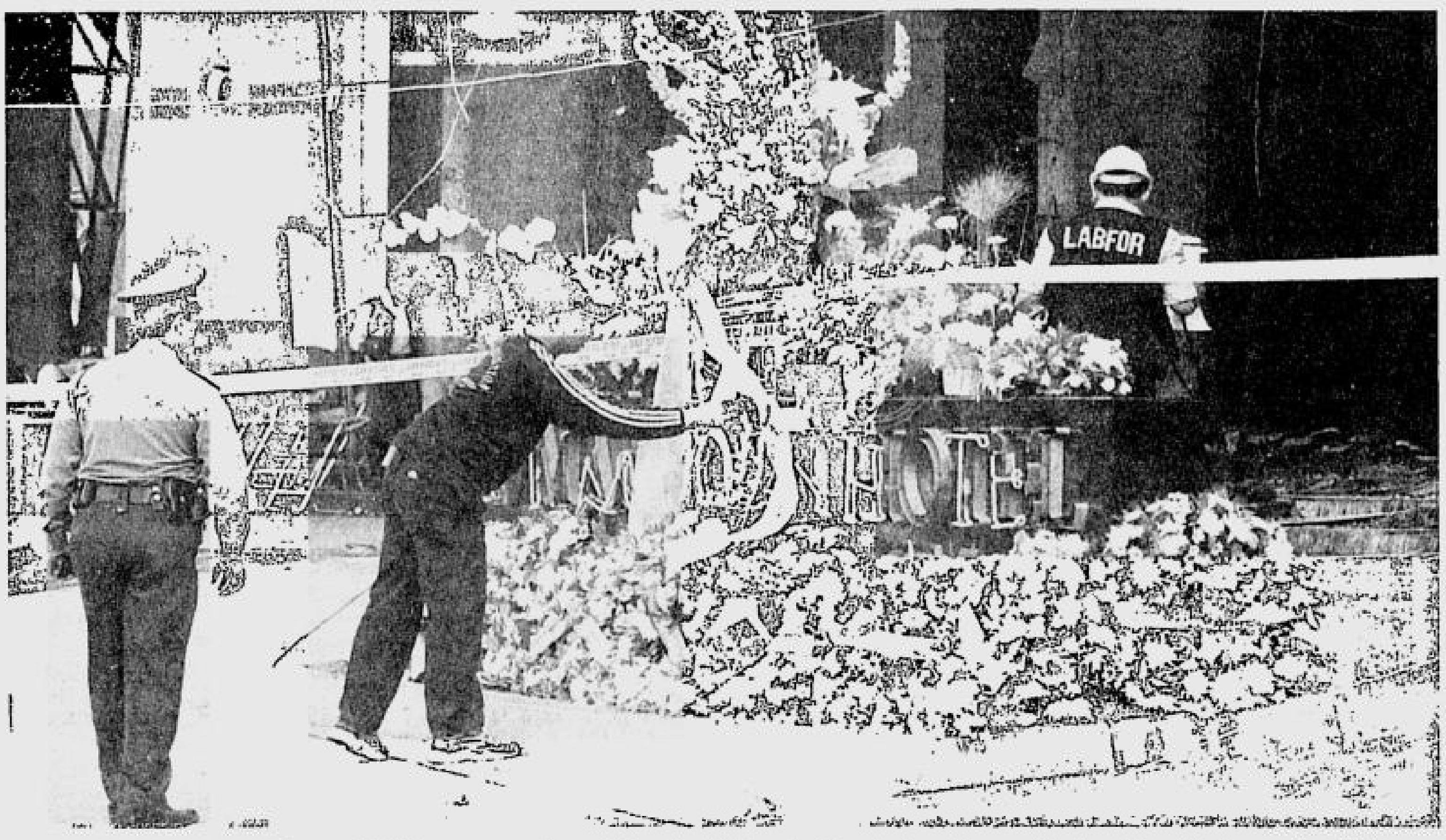
Now LURD and an allied rebel faction control four-fifths of the brutally impoverished nation of 3.3 million people, and holds Monrovia in a choke hold, blocking food supplies to a beleaguered and hungry population.

Taylor, who described himself as a "sacrificial lamb," claimed that Washington supported the LURD rebels and had used the rebels' grip on Monrovia's food supplies as a tool to blackmail him.

Nigerian Gen. Festus Okonkwo, who commands the newly arrived west African peacekeeping force in Liberia, said he expected Taylor to leave the country and head for exile in Nigeria on Monday after the handover.

"That's what the man said. We hope he's going to leave tomorrow. He's going to hand over tomorrow (Monday) and everybody has said he's going to leave after that," Okonkwo said.

Presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, John Kufuor of Ghana and Joachim Chissano of Mozambique were expected in Monrovia on Monday to attend the handover ceremony. *AFP*



A HUNDRED people attend a multi-faith prayer service at Jakarta's JW Marriott Hotel, site of last week's bombing. "To those who did it, show them the right way of thinking," a Hindu priest said at the service. AFP

Bali bombing brains ready to die a martyr

BALI, Indonesia—The suspected mastermind of the Bali bombings began his day in court on Monday by thanking the prosecutors for demanding a death sentence and said execution by firing squad would bring him closer to God.

Imam Samudra, a 33-year-old Muslim computer expert, was speaking to a court that less than a week ago sentenced the "smiling bomber," Amrozi, to death for his role in the bombings of two nightclubs that killed 202 people last October.

Samudra, wearing the loose white shirt and a skull cap he favors to distinguish him as a Muslim believer, began his statement by reciting verses in Arabic from the Koran.

"I'd like to say thank you to the prosecutor team, which has demanded the death sentence. Because in death we live peacefully, and in death we draw near to God," Samudra told the court.

"I'm ready to die a martyr," he shouted as he was led out of the courtroom. His trial resumes on Thursday.

Amrozi's lawyers said they would appeal against a death sentence. Prosecutors will make their demand for sentencing on Tuesday.

Political analysts say the tough demands by prosecutors show that the world's most populous Muslim nation sought harsh sentences to show it is serious about tackling Islamic militancy, especially after last week's bombing of a US-run luxury hotel in Jakarta.

Like the other accused in the Bali bombings, Samudra and Amrozi were students of elderly Indonesian Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, said to be the leader of the shadowy militant Jemaah Islamiyah group. Bashir himself is currently on trial for treason. *Reuters*

Cabbie recalls horror of hotel bombing

JAKARTA—Taxi driver Achmad Nasihin is struggling to come to terms with his miraculous escape from last week's bombing of a luxury hotel in Jakarta that killed 11 people, including five of his friends.

Choking back tears, the 48-year-old driver who was in front of the JW Marriott Hotel when the car bomb exploded last Tuesday said: "I am not traumatized, but I just keep thinking about my friends. I hope their wives and children will be protected by God."

Speaking on Monday after a memorial service held just meters from where the bomb exploded, Nasihin recounted his experience as he showed the cuts and bruises he sustained.

"I was thrown to the ground and when I got up I was covered in blood. I looked up and saw all the cars on fire," he said.

About 200 survivors, relatives of the victims and diplomats gathered for the solemn multi-faith prayer service in a white marquee that was surrounded by crime scene tape and erected next to a row of charred limousine taxis.

In the background, investigators rummaged through piles of twisted metal and debris, seeking to find out more about an attack the government has blamed on the militant Jemaah Islamiyah network.

"I hope they know that the victims were only little people, not big or rich people," said Achmad Nasihin.

Defense Minister Matori Abdul Djalil earlier said he was convinced that the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, was behind the suicide bombing that wounded 150 people.

"We have to find the perpetrators and punish them," former Indonesian president and Muslim cleric Abdurrahman Wahid said after the service.

Then he added: "As a man of religion, I have to forgive them." *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Thailand issues antiterrorist decree

BANGKOK—Spurred by last week's car bombing in Jakarta and an upcoming Asia-Pacific summit in Bangkok, the Thai government has decreed a tough new antiterrorism law. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra announced Monday the executive decree sought to prevent the country from becoming a haven for terrorists. The law makes terrorism punishable by 20 years in jail to death, and empowers police to search and arrest suspected terrorists. It defines terrorism as any violent act that causes damage to life, personal freedom and public infrastructure, or any act that threatens national security and peace. *AP*

Nato takes over peacekeeping force

KABUL—Nato took command of the 5,000-strong international peacekeeping force in the Afghan capital on Monday, a historic move that marks the alliance's first operation outside Europe since it was created 54 years ago. The alliance took over from Germany and the Netherlands, who have jointly led the International Security Assistance Force, known as Isaf, since Feb. 10. The outgoing commander, German Lt. Gen. Norbert van Heyst, handed over control during a formal ceremony in an auditorium inside the capital's Amani High School. *AP*

Probe of scientist's death opens

LONDON—A judicial inquiry into the death of government weapons adviser David Kelly begins taking testimony Monday, with the first witnesses testifying about his character and expertise. Terence Taylor of the International Institute of Strategic Studies in Washington and Richard Hatfield, personnel director at Britain's Ministry of Defense, were scheduled to be the first to give evidence at London's High Court. The inquiry, headed by senior appeals judge Lord Hutton, will probe the circumstances behind Kelly's suicide last month and the government's use of intelligence in the buildup to the war in Iraq. The judge has said he intends to call Prime Minister Tony Blair and Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon to testify. Kelly was found dead in woodland near his home in Abingdon, southern England on July 18. He had slashed his left wrist. *AP*

No relief in Europe heat wave

LONDON—Europeans sweating through an abnormally hot August faced little immediate prospect of relief Monday after a weekend of record-setting temperatures. Britain recorded its hottest day ever on Sunday—38.1 degrees Celsius—at Gravesend in southern England. Temperatures in London also crept above 100 Fahrenheit. On Saturday, the Bavarian city of Roth recorded a high of 40.4 degrees Celsius. Germany's previous record of 40.2 degrees Celsius was also in Bavaria, set in 1983. More than 40 deaths—including a 3-year-old French girl who died in a parked car on Sunday—have been blamed on temperatures that have hovered in the mid-30s Celsius for days. *AP*

Dioxin contamination in Vietnam

HANOI—Decades after the wartime defoliant Agent Orange was sprayed over the country, dioxin continues to contaminate people through the food chain in present-day Vietnam, according to a study released Monday. The finding, published in the August issue of the Journal of Occupation and Environmental Medicine, found that six out of 16 food samples taken last year from around the southern city of Bien Hoa, a former US air base, had very high dioxin levels, approaching those found during the Vietnam War. The dioxin was found in free-range ducks, free-range chickens, a bottom-dwelling fish and a toad. Pork and beef samples tested showed negligible levels. *AP*

57th US soldier killed in northern Iraq attack

BASRA, Iraq—A US soldier was killed and two others wounded in a bomb attack in northern Iraq, as British troops restored electricity to parts of Basra and supervised the distribution of gasoline after two days of protests over fuel and power shortages.

The soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division came under attack with a homemade bomb in front of the police station they were guarding in Baqouba, 70 km north of Baghdad, late Sunday, Maj. Mark Solomons said Monday.

The death brought to 57 the number of US troops killed in action since May 1, when US President George W. Bush declared major combat over in Iraq.

In Basra, a British patrol returned fire after it came under attack late Sunday, wounding two assailants, according to British military spokesperson Capt. Hisham Halawi. Two others escaped and were being pursued, he said. There were no British casualties.

Basra had been one of the quietest cities in the country. But on the second day of protests Sunday, an Iraqi protester and a Nepalese security guard were shot dead.

The protester was killed after an angry crowd tried to block four four-wheel drive vehicles crossing the main bridge leading to the airport and the British military headquarters. It was not clear who shot the demonstrator. *AP*

Israel jets buzz Beirut

BEIRUT—Israeli jets buzzed Beirut early Monday after an air raid on southern Lebanon in retaliation for the Hezbollah militia killing an Israeli in cross-border fire, but a senior official in Jerusalem said diplomacy was the best way to defuse the conflict.

Lebanon seemed equally intent on pursuing a diplomatic battle, with its foreign minister meeting ambassadors of the five UN Security Council permanent members and the representative of UN chief Kofi Annan over Israeli "aggressions."

Low-flying jets shook residents awake shortly after 1 a.m. with loud bangs in a mock raid following threats of "retaliatory options" by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon after meeting with his military chiefs late Sunday.

But Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Baum said early Monday Israel favored diplomacy over military action to respond to the latest firing by the Lebanese Shiite Muslim militia.

"We have chosen to react to Hezbollah attacks by stressing diplomatic action while still mounting a retaliatory operation on the ground," he said, a day after a Hezbollah attack claimed its first Israeli victim in almost a year.

"But if Hezbollah chooses the path of escalation, Israel will have to be firm, and it is possible that Syrian targets might be targeted," he said.

Other officials told the press that Israel was hoping the new eruption of violence on the northern front would be quelled by US pressure on Damascus, the main power broker in Lebanon. *AFP*

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A century of facts

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BenguetCorp

Benguet

1903-2003 - A

The power to turn natural resources i

By Raquel P. Gomez

DEEP into the bowels of Antamok mines in Benguet province, Benguet Corporation's history has already been cast in gold ever since two American ex-soldiers-turned-prospectors and a Manila soda-fountain operator pioneered the gold mining industry in the country in 1903.

Today, as the country's mining industry leader turns a hundred years and writes another page of its colorful history, BenguetCorp announces its biggest project for this year, to provide bulk water supply for Baguio City and the Itogon municipality in Benguet Province, a thriving tourism destination in the North.

The project is part of the water resource development venture the company has been concentrating on in recent years since it has realigned its operations with core businesses.

Philip Romualdez, BenguetCorp president, said the company is transforming itself from a purely mining organization into a total natural resource development company. As such, the company will focus its efforts on mining and mineral exploration, bulk water supply and distribution, land development, engineering, construction and technical services, and ecotourism.

"We needed to look at our core competencies, which are really technical in nature," said Romualdez. "We have a lot of engineers, geologists, metallurgists. And we realized that we are dealing with so many aspects of natural resources development."

Pride in being efficient

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For land development, the company is engaged in developing lands for industrial use in Irisan, Benguet and for a medium-cost housing project in Rosario, La Union.

"We take pride in our ability to design and do actual construction works in the projects that we develop and we're very efficient," said Romualdez.

As for mining projects, BenguetCorp currently has four operations: refractory chromite mining in Masinloc, Zambales, gold mining in Acupan, Benguet, and limestone quarrying in Irisan, Benguet and Pangasinan.

The company still has a number of mining interests and mining operating partnerships with other companies and these are in Davao (gold and copper), Zambales (limestone and nickel), and Bicol (copper, gold and zinc). Aside from gold, copper and chromite, the company is exploring for nickel, a key commodity in the production of steel. BenguetCorp also plans to develop soon the long-awaited Kingking Mines. Kingking Mines, the most extensively explored copper-gold mine in the country, will also be one of the largest when finally put into operation. The company plans to divide the development into two or three phases breaking down the US$800 million project.

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Realigning of thrusts

Romualdez said the realigning of thrusts of the company into core businesses will ensure financial stability for this company which has experienced and survived a lot of conditions--from wars, natural disasters, political upheavals to cyclical economic conditions.

"By introducing this (water) segment of the business, it will provide financial stability for the company so it will avoid the peaks and the drops, the booms and busts that are inherent in the mining industry."

Talk of booms and busts in the mining sector, Romualdez said that the state of mining is at its lowest today. During the height of mineral mining operation in the country in the 1970s, "mining exports contributed up to 25% of the country's total exports or 5% of the country's GNP, and now the sector barely contributes 1.5%," according to Romualdez.

He lamented that the country exports its talented people abroad instead of its products.

"A robust mineral industry has the potential to increase our dollar inflows to compete with those being brought in by our OFWs. It would not be entirely a far-fetched idea that the new success of the mineral sector might allow the country to bring its overseas workers back to their families

JUMBO drill used in the underhand cut-and-fill mining system at MCO

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LEADERS AND BUILDERS

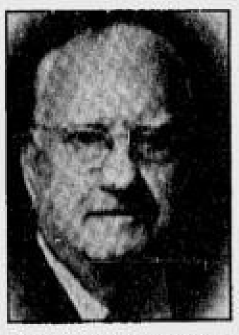
Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez
1998-present

Dennis R. Belmonte
1988-1998

Delfin L. Lazaro
1986-1988

Jaime V. Ongpin
1974-1986

Ralph W. Crosby
1962-1974



John W. Haussermann
1914-1915; 1931-1962

A. Walter Beam
1918-1931

Charles H. Sleeper
1916-1917

Metcalfe A. Clarke
1903-1913

ALL THE PRESIDENTS. Benguet Corporation takes pride in having these men hold the helm of leadership through the hundred years.

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present corporate name, Benguet Corp
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Talk of booms and busts in the mining sector, Romualdez said that the state of mining is at its lowest today. During the height of mineral mining operation in the country in the 1970s, "mining exports contributed up to 25% of the country's total exports or 5% of the country's GNP, and now the sector barely contributes 1.5%," according to Romualdez.

He lamented that the country exports its talented people abroad instead of its products.

"A robust mineral industry has the potential to increase our dollar inflows to compete with those being brought in by our OFWs. It would not be entirely a far-fetched idea that the new success of the mineral sector might allow the country to bring its overseas workers back to their families

JUMBO drill used in the underhand cut-and-fill mining system at MCO

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LEADERS AND BUILDERS

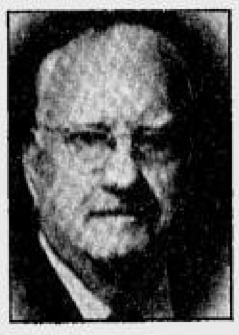
Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez
1998-present

Dennis R. Belmonte
1988-1998

Delfin L. Lazaro
1986-1988

Jaime V. Ongpin
1974-1986

Ralph W. Crosby
1962-1974



John W. Haussermann
1914-1915; 1931-1962

A. Walter Beam
1918-1931

Charles H. Sleeper
1916-1917

Metcalfe A. Clarke
1903-1913

ALL THE PRESIDENTS. Benguet Corporation takes pride in having these men hold the helm of leadership through the hundred years.

A drama
and inspiring

BENGUET Corporation was incorporate
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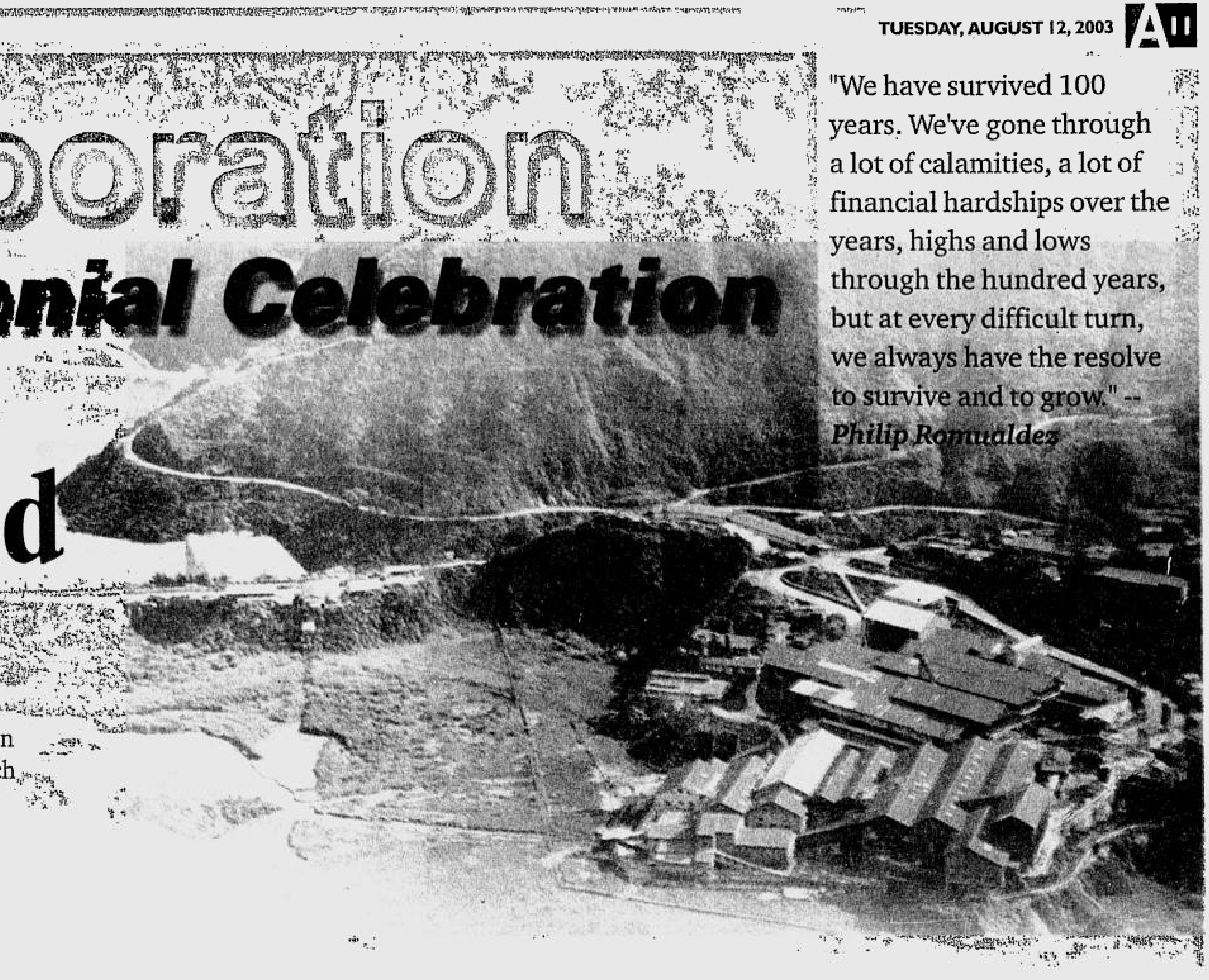
Corporation Centennial Celebration



"We have survived 100 years. We've gone through a lot of calamities, a lot of financial hardships over the years, highs and lows through the hundred years, but at every difficult turn, we always have the resolve to survive and to grow." -- *Philip Romualdez*

nto gold

century of existence, Benguet
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Romualdez.
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A legacy of a hundred years to community and country

THE GREATEST feat BenguetCorp is most proud of isn't digging into the dizzy depths inside a mountain to get that gold or other precious metals, but in the community of people it has established in the rural areas that benefited from free housing, free water and electricity, free medical services, and subsidized schooling for the children.

The communities BenguetCorp has put up in its mining camps has developed roads, a hospital, a church, playground and sports facilities. These and the economic activity that have been generated in these communities have helped pushed development in the countryside.

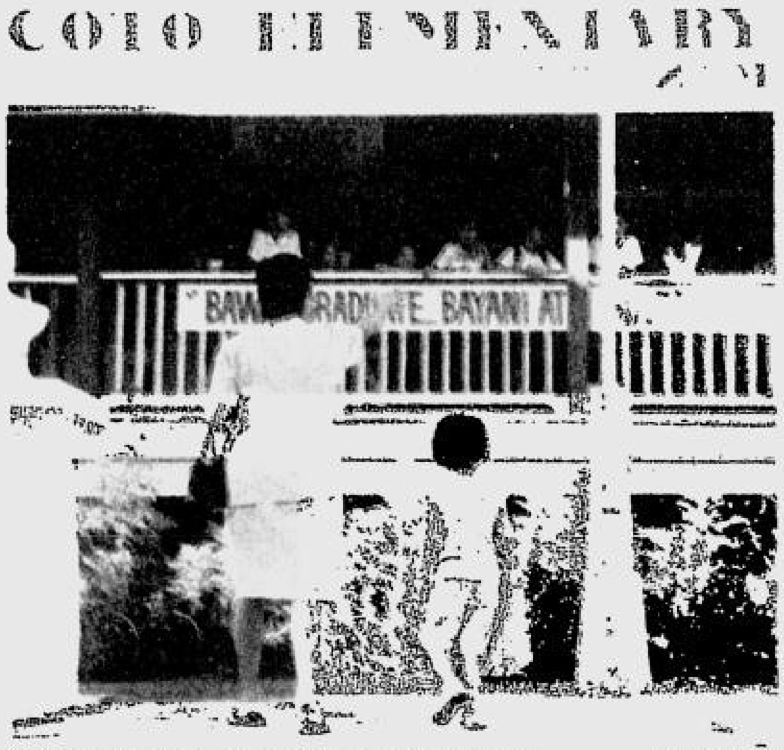
The 100-year-old mining industry leader has provided employment to more than 23,000 employees during the peak of its operation. It has provided payroll and fringe benefits to employees amounting to almost P18 billion already. It has paid the government in taxes some P4.7 billion. It has contributed to the environment protection P2.6 billion and has reforested some 20,000 hectares of denuded forestland.

BenguetCorp has built 103 classrooms and five hospitals with a total bed capacity of 500. Close to 200,000 students were given subsidized elementary and high school education. The roads and bridges built by this company in rural areas in the mountains expand to hundreds of kilometers.

At the heart of BenguetCorp's philosophy are the people, the community, wise management of the rural environment and the importance of keeping this relationship.

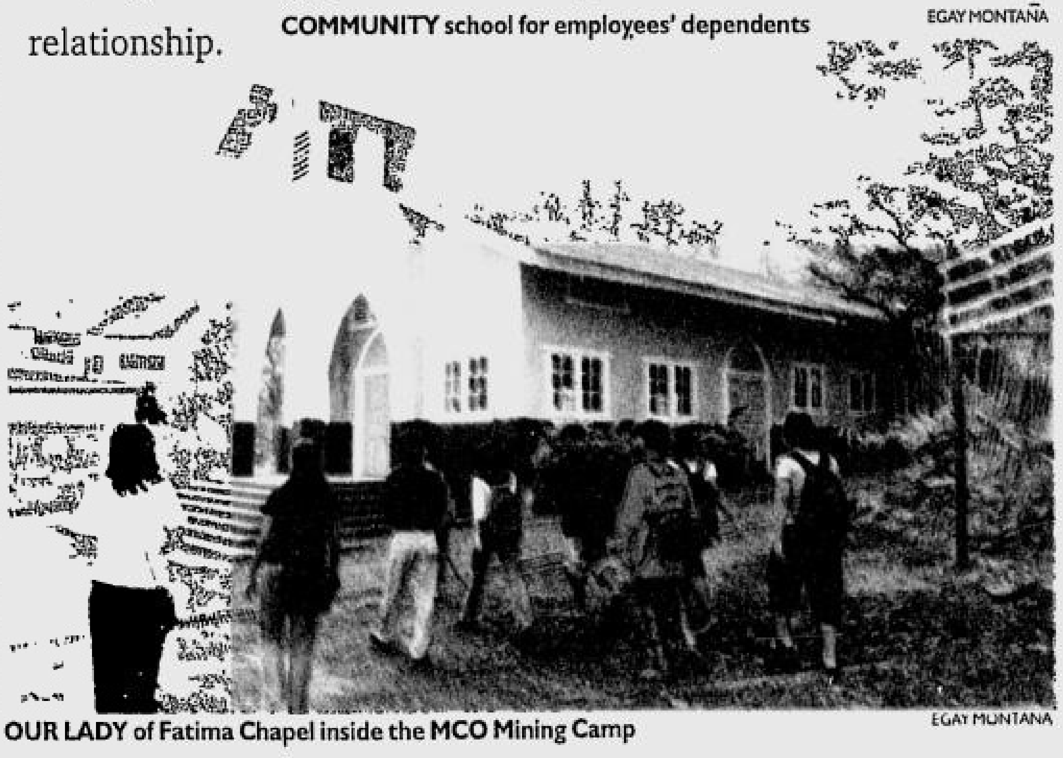
BenguetCorp's Masinloc Chromite Operation is one good example of the company's conviction in keeping community relationship and being a responsible steward of the environment.

> At the heart of BenguetCorp's philosophy are the people, the community, wise management of the rural environment and the importance of keeping this relationship.



COMMUNITY school for employees' dependents

EGAY MONTANA



OUR LADY of Fatima Chapel inside the MCO Mining Camp

EGAY MONTANA

A tale of a mining community

AT SIX in the morning, the mining operation and community established by BenguetCorp in Coto, Masinloc Zambales, wake up to the rising sun.

The 79-year-old mining site that sits on a 3,900-hectare mountainous region is picturesque. Smoke from the wood houses indicates the womenfolk preparing breakfast. Children scurry down the dirt road to catch the morning class. And the miners holding their ubiquitous packed lunches, start to leave their houses one by one to head for work down the tunnels in the mountain.

BenguetCorp's Masinloc Chromite Operation, the biggest refractory chromite mine in the country, is also home to 204 families of the employees of the mining operation who enjoy the free housing given by the company.

The mining camp and community, nestled between two mountain peaks, is self contained—it has schools for elementary and high school, a hospital, a church, a grocery store, a videoke house, and a transportation service to and from Masinloc proper.

It is a peaceful, happy and almost an idyllic community. According to Isabelo Velez, vice president for operation in the camp, there are no police stationed in the community, which is divided into seven zones. He said residents can sleep with their doors and windows open. "This is really a very safe and peaceful community."

Velez, who came from Cagayan de Oro, has lived with his family in the mining camp since 1978. His children, who number to six, grew up inside the camp.

Mang Blas Caranto, 53, is a second generation miner. His father was a miner who raised all his children inside the mining community in Coto.

Mang Blas, now lives with his family in a similar wood house in the camp his father had lived in. He has been a miner for 30 years and works the night shift. He has three children and one of them already finished a college education.

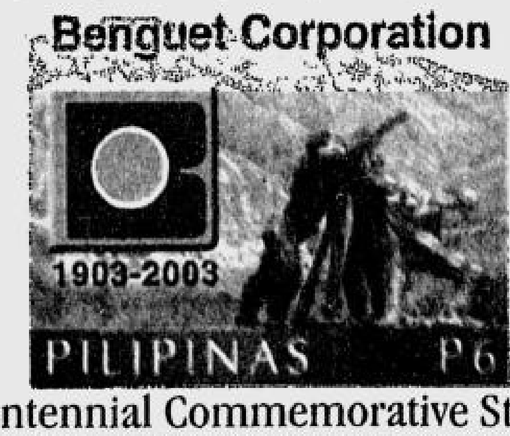
Life in the mining community is happy and peaceful, according to Mang Blas. There are a number of community activities to look forward to, he said, like fiestas, parades, beauty contest, or a birthday party of a neighbor.

Because the community is composed of employees of the company and their families, the people, who have originally come from different provinces, have bonded together over the years and formed great friendships.

"The community is closely knit and organized," said Mang Blas. "The life of a miner is a happy life because of the camaraderie of all the miners and the employees of the company."

As to the state of the environment in the mining camp area, greens and low ground pine trees have covered the open pits and the flat lands surrounding the great river. Velez said the company has received three awards from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in three successive years for keeping the mining camp area reforested. The river inside the camp area, which provides the water for the mining operation and the community, is crystal clear, fresh tasting, and is very well maintained near its pristine condition and has actually become a destination area for swimming.

"Both the company and the community run this area," said Velez. "The people here have realized that they are truly part of the company." RPG



Centennial Commemorative Stamp

BENGUET Corporation commemorates 2003, a special year, with a centennial stamp that looks back at its beginnings - the first gold mine and mill facility nestled in the mountains of Antamok in Benguet Province, where the Company derived its corporate name.

Set against the backdrop of Antamok Mine is a sculpted artwork called "The Miners" by Filipino sculptor, Solomon Saprid, which epitomizes mining as the Company's core business in its first century of existence, as well as, exemplifies its commitment to the growth of the Philippine mining industry, pioneered by the Company.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO HOST COMMUNITIES 1916-2002

No. of Employees	23,843 (at peak operation - 1986) Since 1916, provided with free housing, water, light and fuel, medical sevices, elementary and subsidized high school education to dependents.
Payroll/Fringe Benefits	P17.8 Billion
Gov t. Taxes/duties paid	P 4.7 Billion
Environment Protection	P 2.6 Billion (since 1977)
Community Services	P 824 Million
Reforestation	P 20,000 hectares/20 million trees
No. of classrooms	103
Total students subsidized	185,000
No. hospitals/dispensaries	5 with total of 500 beds
Roads	200 kms.
Bridges	80
Tunnels driven	150 kms.
Earth Dams made	7[illegible]

SUMMARY OF MINERAL PRODUCTION 1906-2002

Gold	14.1 million ounces
Silver	10.5 million ounces
Copper	776 million pounds
Chromite	15.4 million tonnes
Aggregate Value	US$7.6 Billion or P 408.9 Billion at current prices

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Reports of sightings of Honasan send lawmen on wild-goose chase

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Edwin Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CEBU CITY—Reports of sightings of Sen. Gregorio Honasan, suspected of masterminding the July 27 Makati mutiny, are sending authorities loyal to the Macapagal administration on a wild goose chase for the elusive former rebel soldier.

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, central Visayas police chief, ordered the region's police intelligence and investigation division to monitor reports of Honasan's presence in Cebu, particularly in the southern part of the island.

The regional police's chief of staff, Senior Supt. Ronald Roderos, said police received reports Honasan was seen somewhere in southern Cebu.

Honasan, saying he feared being arrested without warrant under a state of rebellion, went into hiding after he was implicated in the July 27 failed mutiny.

Honasan was rumored to be meeting with his friends in a hotel in Cebu on Aug. 1 at the start of the Senate hearing on the failed mutiny.

Another report said Honasan was meeting with his friends in Minglanilla town, about 20 km south of Cebu City.

But Mayor Marlo Canada of Minglanilla said Honasan has not been in his town. He laughed off reports that the senator had visited his house.

SOLDIERS on the hunt for escaped terrorist Al-Ghozi may now have to add another name to their hunting list, Honasan, after the rebel soldier-turned-senator went into hiding following reports he was one of the brains of the Makati mutiny. REUTERS

Canada said his family is not close to Honasan, although the senator has a relative and some friends in his town.

Regional intelligence chief Supt. Melchor Fajardo said he already formed two teams to check if Honasan was really in the province.

But Fajardo said the teams are not under instructions to arrest the senator.

Fajardo also said the teams were formed not to arrest the senator.

He said police only want to know if Honasan was in Cebu so that they could have ready information of his whereabouts should an arrest warrant be issued against the senator.

Col. Nestor Anonuevo, the spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Central Command (Centcom) based in this city, said they also heard reports about the presence of Honasan in Cebu.

Anonuevo said they were not doing anything about it since they have yet to receive orders from their superiors about the matter.

Anonuevo said that even if an arrest warrant would be issued against Honasan, the responsibility to arrest the senator belongs to the police and not to the military.

In Cotabato City, a member of the Guardians Brotherhood claimed that Sen. Gregorio Honasan was sighted in the company of a dozen motorcycle-riding men in Maguindanao in the early morning of Wednesday.

Retired AFP officers won't rock boat, back Reyes

RETIRED ranking officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police have expressed their support for Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, who came under fire from a group of mutinous soldiers.

The Association of Brigadiers Generals Chief Superintendents and Commodores Pensioners of the Philippines issued a resolution on July 23 in a meeting inside Camp Aguinaldo to express support for Reyes and Abaya, who were accused by the mutineers of involvement in corruption in the military.

The veterans group, led by its head retired Chief Supt. Juan Abuan, reiterated its support while asking renegade soldiers to seek redress of grievances through proper channels inside the military.

"The association believes that problems should be handled with resistance and determination, but be fought under the banner of moral battle through the chain of command," the resolution said.

Abuan said his group remains steadfast in its stand to support the AFP and DND amid controversies surrounding the military.

"During our younger days, we also experienced the lack of resources in the AFP, like low pay and limited housing projects. But we put our trust and confidence on the sincerity and dedication of our superior as well as the government," he said.

In a statement, the Association of Generals and Flag Officers Inc. (Agfo), the group of retired generals of the AFP, said Reyes issued a memorandum to the AFP to investigate irregularities in the military as early as April 26.

Administration senator says Palace can't stop testimony of mutineers

BACOLOD CITY—Administration Sen. Manuel Villar sought to give assurance that the Senate would not allow Malacañang to silence the July 27 Makati mutineers from airing their gripes and that the rebel soldiers' concerns would be heard so these could be addressed.

Villar was reacting to concerns that the Senate succumbed to pressure from Malacañang when it moved to Aug. 14 a scheduled hearing on the mutiny that was originally scheduled to be held on Aug. 9.

"I don't think we can allow Malacañang to silence the mutineers. We just want everything to be clear before we start the investigation," he said. The Senate, he said, should proceed with the investigation especially now that more information on the mutiny and its causes have already surfaced.

"Our findings will be inaccurate if we conduct a hearing too early. It is better to conduct it when there is no more danger to the state and people are sober and not panicking anymore," he said.

The senator was in Isabela town, about 82 km south of here, as guest of a convention of a communications group. While in town, he also visited his relatives.

Villar said the Senate would hear all sides during its investigation of the mutiny, including the complaints of the rebel soldiers.

"We will insist on seeing and hearing the side of the mutineers and the allegations of corruption in the military," he said.

He also sought to give assurance that even the Senate's closed door hearings on the mutiny would not deprive the public of knowing what transpired behind closed doors.

Senators, he said, violate the confidentiality of closed-door hearings, granting interviews and revealing what transpired in the hearings so media or concerned citizens should not be wary of investigations held behind closed doors.

Villar said that while there is still a threat of a coup, he does not think one could be easily be launched now because it would require an element of surprise, which no longer exists.

The Magdalo group of soldiers accused top military and defense officials of involvement in large scale corruption in the military, including the selling of firearms and ammunition to Moro guerrillas.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Judge rules he won't inhibit self from Javier slay case

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—The presiding judge in the 17-year-old murder case of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier yesterday junked the motion of one of the accused for the judge to inhibit himself from the case.

Judge Rudy Castrojas of the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12 dismissed the motion of Jimmy Punzalan, one of the accused facing charges of murder, frustrated murder and attempted murder in connection with Javier's killing.

Castrojas said it was "erroneous" for Punzalan to say that he already prejudged the guilt of the accused.

In a five-page motion filed on Aug. 6, Punzalan, through his lawyer Felipe Macahilig Jr., said the court had "already reached the conclusion that the accused are guilty beyond reasonable doubt. This is even before the case has been fully heard and tried."

Punzalan cited the order of the court denying his petition for bail where Castrojas said there was proof that Punzalan was part of the plan to kill Javier.

The judge denied bail to all but one of the 18 accused in the killing of Javier and the wounding of several others.

Prosecution witnesses tagged Punzalan, a former sergeant in the defunct Philippine Constabulary, as the driver of the vehicle that brought the firearms to the rest house of former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador in Taringting, Barangay Funda-Dalipe in the capital town of San Jose, Antique.

Punzalan, along with co-accused lawyer Avelino Javellana, allegedly brought eight high-powered firearms to the house days before Javier was gunned down on Feb. 11, 1986, according to the witnesses.

Punzalan denied the allegation. Punzalan has a pending petition before the Department of Justice to be dropped from the list of the accused.

In his order, Castrojas said Punzalan's perception that the judge was biased against the accused had no basis.

He said his order denying the petition for bail of the accused only established a *prima facie* case against the accused.

"This does not mean that the court has already found them guilty beyond reasonable doubt," he added.

The judge issued the order after no other counsel for the defense and the prosecution expressed support for Punzalan's motion.

Gang member under police protection fears for life

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The main suspect in the series of thefts and armed robberies in central and northern Negros who was allegedly being coddled by "rogue policemen" was captured Tuesday in Barangay Robles, La Castellana, Negros Occidental.

Insp. Virgilio de la Cruz, La Castellana police chief, identified the suspect as Ricky Berdano, alias Nognog, who has three pending cases in court for robbery, frustrated homicide and robbery with homicide.

Berdano yesterday confessed to being the triggerman in the robbery-slaying of businessman Arthur Cornel on June 30 in Ditching Subdivision in Victorias City. The heist brought injuries to Cornel's 7-year-old daughter, Farrah.

Aside from his involvement in the Cornel killing, Berdano also admitted participation in the hold-up of an Indian businessman who was robbed of an estimated P35,000 in Victorias City, early this year.

Senior Supt. Vicente Ponteras, provincial police director of Negros Occidental, said he would investigate reports that some policemen allegedly served as protectors of Berdano's gang.

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Disqualify Lapid, ex-mayor petitions court

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A former mayor of Bacolor town asked the court to remove movie actor and Gov. Manuel Lapid from office for lack of residency in Pampanga.

Lawyer Ananias Canlas Jr., who was defeated by Lapid by a wide margin in the 2001 gubernatorial election, said Lapid had trasferred his permanent residence to Angeles City, a chartered city outside the territorial jurisdiction of Pampanga and not within the administrative jurisdiction of the governor.

The governor, on his third and final term, plans to run as city mayor in next year's local elections.

Canlas attached several pieces of evidence supporting his claim. These comprised of a certification from the Commission on Elections-Angeles City office that the governor had applied for the transfer of his registration records from Porac, his hometown, to Barangay Sto. Domingo in Angeles City.

The application was, however, denied in view of election rules, the same certification showed.

Canlas, a member of the opposition Buklod Kapampangan, also furnished the court a copy of a deed of absolute sale and a transfer certificate title for a parcel of land the governor bought on 26 Narra St. at L&S Subdivision in Angeles City in April.

The evidence included receipts for payments by Lapid for customer's deposit and electric bills to the Angeles Electric Corp. in May.

In the 11-page complaint, Canlas reproduced the certification of Sto. Domingo Barangay Captain Angelito Caparas that Lapid made the property in the same subdivision as his "permanent place of residence."

Canlas argued that the Local Government Code of 1991 made residency as one of the requirements for all elective officials.

He cited Section 464 of the code, which requires the governor to have official residence in the capital of the province during his or her incumbency.

According to him, the qualifications of public officials are "continuing requirements" during their entire tenure.

Canlas not only asked the court to disqualify Lapid but to also cut the salary and benefits to him.

Provincial Treasurer Jovito Sabado was named as Lapid's co-defendant because of alleged illegal disbursement and expenditures of public funds to Lapid.

Lapid, who made himself available for an interview only on Friday, said he still lives in Porac where he has a farm and a house.

The governor said Canlas' complaint was part of the "demolition" campaign against him.

Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

3 more LGUs to get P5M in child dev't programs

DUMAGUETE CITY—Three more local government units in Negros Oriental would get P5 million each as beneficiaries of the Early Childhood Development Project (ECDP) funded by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Alicia Lagarde, provincial development and social welfare officer in the province, said the municipalities of Dauin and La Libertad and Canlaon City compose the third batch of beneficiaries in Negros Oriental of the three-year project.

The ECDP provides funds for day care centers, training of child support workers and school supplies and food for child beneficiaries.

Lagarde said the first two batches of beneficiaries came from the cities of Bais, Dumaguete and Bayawan and the towns of Guihulngan, Ayungon, Mabinay, Bindoy, Manjuyod, Siaton, Sta. Catalina and Bacong.

She said each of the local government units was required to put up counterpart funds. For first to third class city or municipality, the counterpart is 40 percent, while for fourth to sixth class municipality the equity is 20 percent.

Lagarde said Negros Oriental is also a beneficiary of the United Nations Children's Fund.

She said the projects help Negros Oriental to realize its goal to become a child-friendly province. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

MANPOWER SHORTAGE

In Negros hospital, doctors are out

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Gov. George Arnaiz has turned to private physicians for help to address the lingering need for more doctors at the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital (NOPH).

The governor urged private doctors to act as "consultants" by rendering their services to the NOPH on a salary of P1 per year.

Arnaiz said he received positive response from many doctors but they asked that they be allowed to collect minimal fees especially from patients who could afford to pay.

The governor told the INQUIRER that he had agreed to the request of the doctors as he asked the public to understand the situation.

He explained that as a government-run hospital, the NOPH could not refuse admission of any patient.

Yet, he added, the NOPH only has 40 resident physicians, a far cry from the requirement of between 70 and 80 doctors needed to attend to at least 330 patients.

The lack of doctors, the governor said, was the reason why some patients could not be immediately attended to even in emergency cases.

The doctors had to attend to patients who needed their attention the most, he added.

Arnaiz said the ideal number of patients that could be accommodated at a given time by NOPH is 250 only. But most of the time, he added, the number would go up to more than 300.

Arnaiz said lack of funding has aggravated the situation following the devolution of hospital services to the local governments in 1992.

It was reported earlier that many doctors in the country were studying to become nurses so they could find better jobs with bigger pay abroad.

Provincial health officer Ely Villapando earlier said that in Negros Oriental, about 50 of the province's 300 doctors were enrolled in nursing.

At the NOPH, he said all his department heads were already nurses.

Villapando said he alerted Health Undersecretary Mila Fernandez about the problem during a meeting in Manila in Negros Oriental late last year.

"I thought we were the only province with this problem, but when I brought it up before a gathering of provincial health officers, they all said they, too, were having the same problem," he said.

Many Filipino medical graduates have gone abroad for more lucrative practice, especially in the United States and Canada, or are practicing in private hospitals in urban areas.

ROUNDUP

3 kids die in blast

ILAGAN, Isabela—Three children were killed on Wednesday when a hand grenade exploded in Barangay Calaccab in Angadanan town, police said. Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, identified the fatalities as Victor Daracan, 8; Antonio Gamboa, 11; and Ferdinand Santoyo, 12. Nario said the three boys found the hand grenade in a remote area in Barangay Calaccab and played with it. Police said the grenade could have been left behind by Army soldiers who stayed in a detachment in Barangay Calaccab.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Man, son slain

BOCAUE, Bulacan—A 70-year-old man and his son were killed by their fellow worker in an animal feeds store in Barangay Lolomboy on Thursday. Supt. Robert Quenery, Bocaue police chief, identified the victims as Rodolfo Zerrudo Sr. and his son Rodolfo, 41. Quenery said workers of the J and C Feeds Store found the bloodied victims in the store's premises on Friday morning when they reported for work. The victims bore cuts and wounds in their heads. Quenery said they have arrested another worker of the store for the murder of the Zerrudos. Police ruled out robbery, saying either work-related jealousy or personal grudge could be the motive behind the killings.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Traders to enforce laws

DAVAO CITY— Traders in the region have committed to cooperate with the Department of Labor and Employment in enforcing labor and other laws within their ranks. Romeo Serra, Federation of Davao Chamber of Commerce (FDCC), said it was for the interest of the business community to ensure a healthy and happy workforce and make sure all labor laws are complied with. "A recent survey conducted by the DOLE has shown that nationwide, compliance with labor laws, particularly on minimum wage, is not universal," he said. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Drug pusher nabbed

LUCENA CITY—Police on Wednesday arrested one of the most wanted drug pushers operating in this city and in neighboring towns, at a checkpoint in Barangay Silangang Mayao. Supt. Edgar Layon, city police chief, who led the team, arrested Bernardo Rayos, 39, while Rayos was riding a motorcycle on his way to the house of one of his alleged accomplices. Seized from Rayos was a .45 cal. pistol, an undetermined amount of shabu and drug paraphernalia. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ring member killed

LUCENA CITY—A notorious member of a syndicate involved in kidnappings, car thefts and drugs operating in Southern Tagalog was killed in a gunfight on Thursday in Barangay Dagatan, Dolores town with police. Killed was Abelardo Robles, an alleged member of the Vergara Gang. A police report said lawmen were fired upon by Robles, who was on board a jeep, as they approached him. A gunfight ensued until the suspect was cornered in Dagatan.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Wanted nabbed

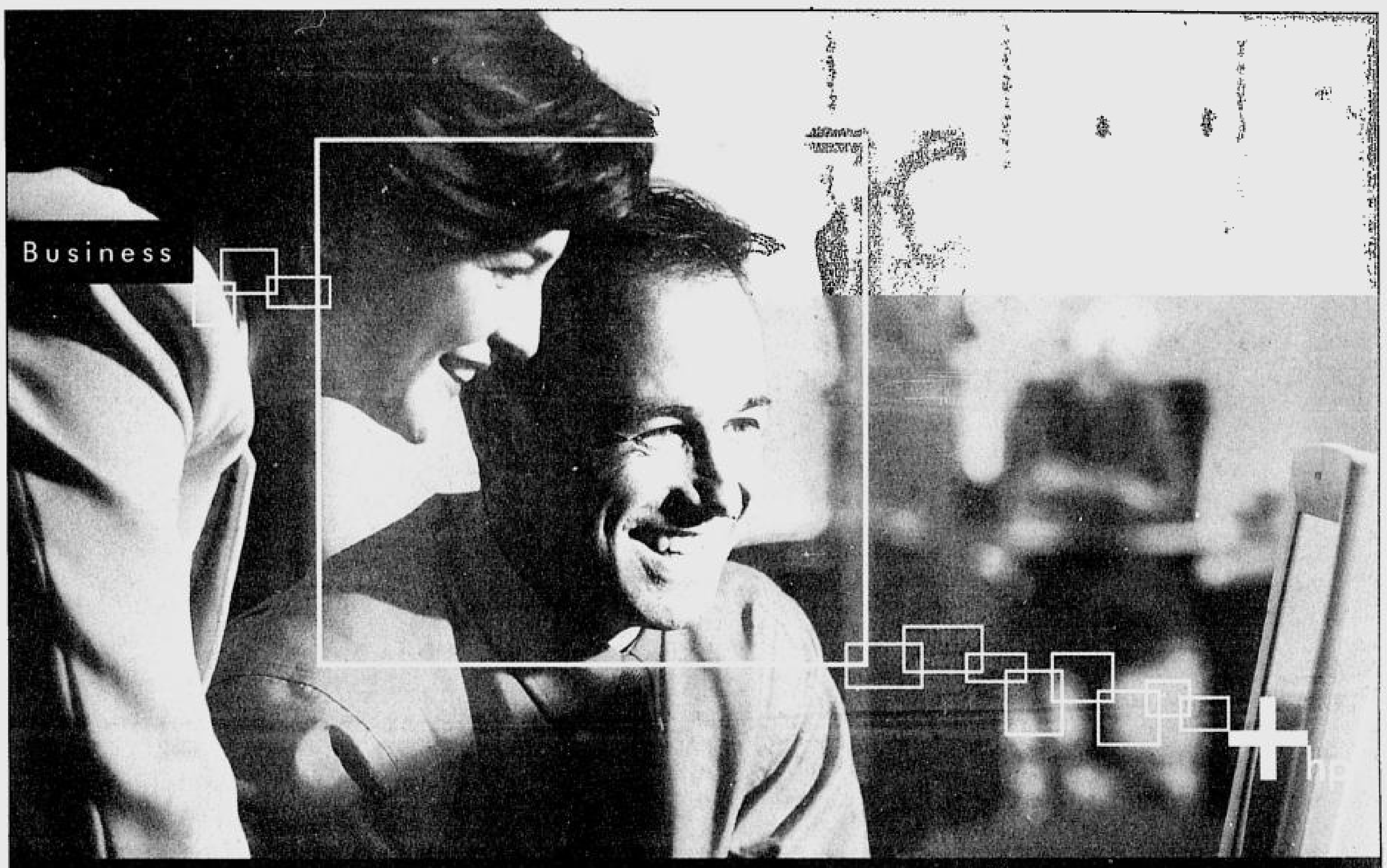
DARAGA, Albay—Police arrested one of the town's most wanted robbers after receiving a report on his whereabouts on Saturday. A police report said the suspect, George Luna, 25, was involved in a series of robbery cases in this town while posing as a vendor. Witnesses and robbery victims have expressed satisfaction with the police apprehension. *Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau.*

Man burns house

BACACAY, Albay—A mentally deranged man burned a house in Barangay Baclayon. Village chief Martin Baroma sought the help of the town police and the fire bureaus to respond to the emergency created by one Ariel Benig, 19, of the same barangay. Baroma said his shanty was razed and his neighbor's house was damaged after a 20-minute fire. The fire was not immediately stopped since the suspect threatened those approaching the burning house, with a hammer. Benig ran away when fire trucks came.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Extorting cop caught

IMUS, Cavite—Authorities arrested a policeman while in the act of extorting money from a retired US Navy man during an entrapment operation on Tuesday. Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police director, identified the suspect as SPO4 Antonio Del Rosario, 52, of the Imus police force. Del Rosario was caught receiving P20,000.00 from Jose Sabale Jr. a retired US Navy man of Barangay Poblacion 4. Rosales said that the suspect went to the victim's house, introduced himself as SPO4 Johnny Roxas assigned to Camp Crame and told Sabale that he had a pending case at the US Embassy and a warrant of arrest has been issued against him. The suspect demanded cash from the victim to evade arrest. *Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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DPWH chief bares plot to oust him, orders nationwide road maintenance

SORIQUEZ

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Acting public works secretary Florante Soriquez revealed a plot to oust him from the public works department but went ahead with an order to all DPWH field personnel to start massive maintenance work in all road networks that complement the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH).

"We should ensure that the roads complementary to the SRNH are well-maintained in order not to hamper the land transport of agricultural produce from the provinces to Manila," Soriquez said.

Public works undersecretary Salvador Pleyto, in charge of operations for central and western Visayas, ordered the regions' officials to install directional signs along SRNH routes to guide motorists.

The order was given amid what Soriquez said was a destabilization drive directed against him at the DPWH.

Soriquez, who assumed the post in May this year, confirmed the oust campaign in his Aug. 4 speech delivered before DPWH employees in Manila.

"Alleged irregularities at the DPWH are the subjects of news reports daily. The accusations against me come left and right. False information is disseminated while there are persistent efforts to unseat me as acting secretary," he said in Filipino.

The allegations of corruption, he added, were "not true."

"I will remain acting secretary as long as President Macapagal-Arroyo trusts me or until the (graft court) Sandiganbayan is convinced that I should be suspended," Soriquez said.

He was referring to the recent motion for suspension filed by the Office of the Ombudsman at the Sandiganbayan for a case over the breaching of the transverse dike of the FVR Megadike in Bacolor, Pampanga.

The case is pending since 1996.

Soriquez, then public works secretary Gregorio Vigilar and undersecretary Jose Encarnacion were cleared in 1999 in another case involving the alleged wrong design of a transverse dike.

Both cases were filed by then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

GMA approves ₱23.6M for Rizal town infrastructure

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the release of some P23.6 million for the implementation of an infrastructure project in Baras, Rizal in fulfillment of a promise she made to the town during a visit in February.

She personally instructed acting Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez to oversee the immediate release of an additional P13.6 million by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to Baras Mayor Dionisio Donato Garciano for the improvement of the Baras-Pinugay Road.

The President earlier, in a hand-written instruction, ordered the release of P10 million for the town's infrastructure.

The infrastructure project will include the upgrading and concreting of the 14.1-kilometer Baras-Pinugay Road.

Garciano thanked the President for making good her promise to improve the lives of the people of Baras.

Army engineers asked to build homes for Mindanao war evacuees

COTABATO CITY—The Department of Social Welfare and Development in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has entered into an agreement with at least two Army engineering brigades for the construction of core houses for displaced residents in Maguindanao.

Abebakrin Lukman, director of the ARMM's Bureau of Public Information, said the Army engineers would build 150 core shelters in Pagalungan, Pagagawan and SK Pendatun towns, which were heavily ravaged by recent skirmishes between the military and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

He said 50 core shelter houses would be built for each of the towns.

Lukman said the 54th engineering brigade under Brig. Gen. Eduardo Lena and the 55th engineering brigade under Col. Jesus Tuadles have committed to manage the project and make soldiers available for it.

The housing unit, which would cost P25,000, was designed by the United Architects of the Philippines using a modular approach, according to Bainon Karon, public works secretary of the ARMM.

Karon said the government had already released P3.78 million for the immediate construction of 150 units.

She said 1,547 units more would soon be constructed.

Lawyer Nabil Tan, ARMM executive secretary, said the project was also part of confidence-building measures by the national government in an effort to win over residents of the ARMM away from the Moro rebellion.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to graduate from relief and rehabilitation to actual development," Tan said.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agrarian Reform and its partner agencies agreed to develop a resettlement area in Sultan Kudarat into a major agro-industrial hub involving some 7,000 former MILF guerrillas. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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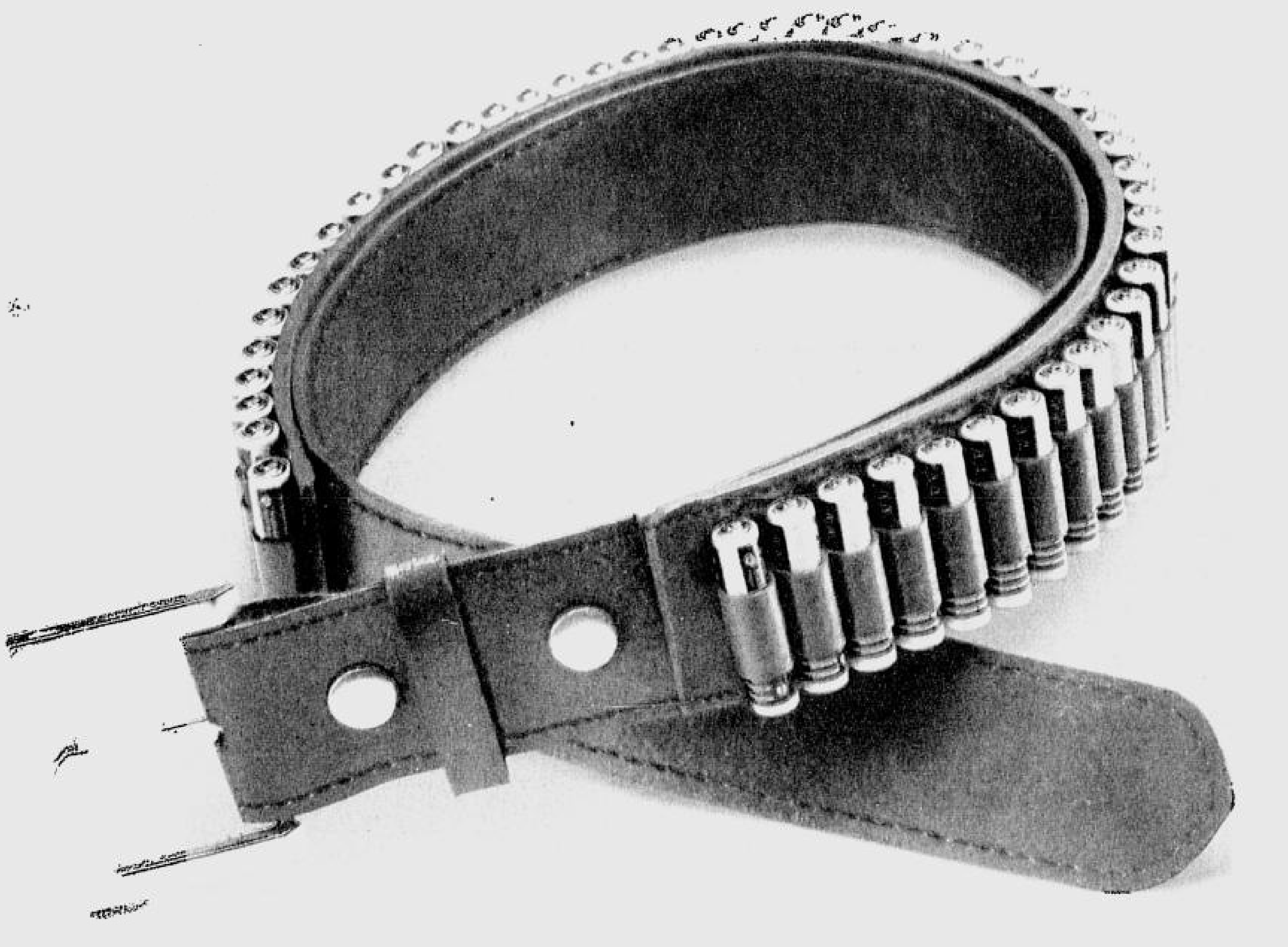

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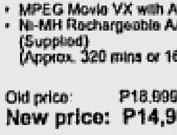

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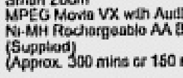

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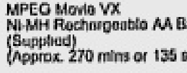

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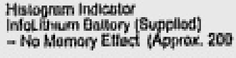

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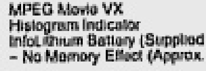

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Ex-bishop urges caution on GMOs

SORSOGON CITY—Former Sorsogon Bishop Jesus Varela has cautioned the government against the use of genetically modified organism (GMO) in a recent forum on GMOs here.

The paper titled "The Ethics of GMO," was presented by Fr. Noli Alparce of the Social Action Center, and also presented earlier by Varela on Oct. 4 last year in Rome during the "Conference in the Ethics of GMO: Its Application to the Philippines."

"Valid concerns are being raised over the risk to health and environmental ecology by the use of GMO. The ethical approach to the use of genetic engineering in food technology must not overlook or gloss over the risks involved," Varela said in his paper.

GMO is a product of genetic engineering. A specific gene is transferred from the same or related or unrelated species to produce new traits in an organism.

The government has allowed the commercialization of BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)-corn in the Philippines despite protests from environmentalists for a moratorium and labeling of GMO products.

Varela, one of the four advisers of the Biotechnology Foundation of the Philippines, also urged an open discussion on GMOs among scientists and top officials involved in the production of GMOs.

"Society has a moral responsibility to feed the world's burgeoning population. The solution is not population control, but rather food production . . . food biotechnology promises us this is possible, though there are risks," Varela said.

"We have not yet said the last word on the ethics of GMO. Whether GMO can and will deliver its promise to alleviate world hunger remains to be seen. It has enormous potentials. But the risks have to be addressed," he said.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Absence of witnesses snags probe of killings

By Alex V. Pal and Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The reluctance of witnesses to come forward has hindered the police investigation of the ambush-killing of suspected drug trafficker Gerry Palubio and wife Josephine in Barangay Looc on Aug. 3.

Supt. Constantino Barot, Dumaguete City police chief, said witnesses in the couple's killing were afraid to testify.

Investigation showed two gunmen riding a 200-cc off-road Honda motorcycle were following the couple who were also riding a motorcycle on the way home from a cockpit in the neighboring town of Sibulan.

When the victims got near their residence on Oracion Drive at about 8:20 p.m., the gunmen fired at them with .45 cal. pistols.

Police said the suspects fired more shots when the victims fell to the ground. Josephine, 52, was hit in the breast and buttock. She was declared dead on arrival at the Silliman Medical Center.

Gerry, 47, who suffered gunshot wounds in the abdomen, chest and leg, died before he could be operated on.

Barot said police investigators were looking at several angles in the killing. One of these, he added, was related to illegal drugs.

"It's possible that some people tried to get back at them or that someone is trying to control the territory," Barot said.

He said police were also looking into reports that the killing was the work of a vigilante group.

Barot said he was told by Gerry's brother that Gerry was involved in an "illegal business," but he did not elaborate.

He, however, admitted that the victim was in the police list of suspected drug pushers.

Feliciano Commission …

From page A1

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said arrangements had been made for the mutiny leaders' appearance before the six-member commission, formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the roots of the rebellion and recommend ways to end "military adventurism."

With the President lifting her declaration of a state of rebellion yesterday, Malacañang said the mutiny leaders could now testify in the congressional inquiries.

"I think that can be arranged. The details (of the appearance) have to be worked out but there should be no problem as to (the mutineers) attending (the Senate inquiry)," Bunye said.

Abaya said he would comply with the Senate subpoena for him to bring the mutineers to the Senate on Thursday.

The AFP had declined to bring the six mutiny leaders in their custody to previous hearings of the Senate and the House, citing national security reasons.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said the mutineers could be tried in two forums—a military tribunal and a civilian court.

"There would be no inconsistency if the rebel officers are tried for violation of the Articles of War before courts-martial and for violation of the penal code before civil courts," Arroyo said in a statement.

Simply put, the Marcos-era human rights lawyer said, a court-martial would deal with the enforcement of discipline for men in uniform such as the Magdalo rebels, while the civil courts would deal with the criminal aspect of the mutiny.

Positive ID

Pontejos was positively identified by Glenn Mabag, a designer for IFH, as the one who ordered the flags, through Pontejos' yearbook picture. Wycoco said Mabag would also be made to identify Pontejos in a lineup at Camp Aguinaldo, where the latter is detained.

IFH manufactured the 200 red Magdalo flags that were used in the takeover of the Oakwood hotel in Makati City. Mabag was the one who drew the design—a white sun with the letter "ka" inside—that Pontejos described when he placed the order for the flags.

Wycoco said the NBI's next step is to identify the financier.

PMA Class 2001 photo of Armand G. Pontejos, reportedly a member of the elite Special Warfare Group of the Philippine Navy. TOOTS SOBERANO/ PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

"We want to know who gave (Pontejos) the P57,000 for the flags. He could not have afforded it on his salary. This is a soldier supposedly complaining about the low pay," he told reporters yesterday.

Pontejos had initially written his name and had given the phone number 456-3222 in the order form during his first visit to IFH on June 4, but erased both on his next visit. Instead, he wrote the cell phone number 0916-5151038.

The NBI learned that the first phone number was registered under a Michael Pontejos, whose address is listed as Lot 13, Block 8, Quezon Cityville, Quezon City.

When reporters called the number, a man answered the phone and said he was Michael Pontejos, apparently the ensign's father.

He passed the phone to his wife Joey Dolores, who said her son sometimes stayed with them.

She said she last saw her son on Aug. 7, when she visited him in Cavite where he had been detained. But she added that Armand was set to be transferred to another detention center.

The cell phone was turned off when reporters tried to call it.

The NBI employed a "simple" method, using infrared film in a 35mm camera, to reveal the over-written information, said Waynefred Villarba, chief of the Photography and Publication Division.

Eliodoro Constantino, chief of the Questioned Documents Division, said the name and phone number were deciphered because the ink used to make the erasure was of a different chemical composition than the ink used to write the information.

No witchhunt

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. denied that the government was engaged in a witch-hunt, especially against the members of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., an organization of retired and active soldiers, policemen and civilians identified with Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Lina, in a statement, also clarified that not all Guardians are being implicated in the July 27 failed coup. He added that only a fraction of the membership of the PGBI who are allied with Honasan and those who made overt acts in connection with the failed rebellion were being charged in the justice department.

Lina noted that there were Guardians who had been partners of the government, particularly the DILG, in peace and order efforts like Patrol 117.

In the Senate, Arroyo explained in a separate interview that the conduct of military and civilian proceedings was not tantamount to forum-shopping.

Arroyo pointed out that court-martial proceedings under the military justice system was indispensable to any armed service, to enable it to maintain and enforce discipline and loyalty.

"Without that, an Army or Navy or Air Force will be nothing more than a disorganized and unwieldy group of men who, having been provided with lethal weapons, can thereafter point it to their very providers," he said.

He emphasized that, contrary to public perception, courts martial were not courts falling within the purview of the judiciary.

"It is essentially an entity tasked to enforce discipline," said Arroyo, adding that the distinction "is courts-martial are part of the executive, while civil courts are part of the judicial system." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Nelson Flores*

PRESIDENT Macapagal listens to Gen. Narciso Abaya explain a point during the awarding rites of the outstanding Filipino soldier sof 2003.

JESS YUSON

Al-Ghozi …

From page A1

dragnet in Lanao del Norte and that he had fled to Maguindanao. Early yesterday morning, government troops overran Al-Ghozi's alleged lair, Camp Salam Alfarise, in Barangay Rebucon, Sultan Naga, Dimaporo town.

The camp has 14 bunkers that can accommodate 250 persons, trenches and an obstacle course for training, according to Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko.

"We admit that he (Al-Ghozi) may have slipped out of Lanao del Norte," Kyamko said.

Al-Ghozi and two Filipino Abu Sayyaf bandits escaped from Camp Crame in Quezon City on July 14, embarrassing Ms Macapagal, who has been a staunch supporter of the US-led global campaign against terrorism.

The Indonesian had been serving a 17-year prison term for illegally procuring more than a ton of explosives, some of which were used for a deadly LRT bombing in Manila on Dec. 30, 2000.

Fabricated

Kyamko dismissed as "fabricated lies" reports that Al-Ghozi had been recaptured.

Maj. Gen. Trifonio Salazar, chief of the 1st Tabak Infantry Division, said the operations in Lanao del Norte would have been stopped if Al-Ghozi had been recaptured. "Why would I gamble the lives of my troops if we already have Al-Ghozi?" he asked.

On Sunday, six soldiers were wounded while three bandits were killed in a clash in Barangay Rebucon in Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said he had confirmed from PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. that Al-Ghozi had neither been killed nor captured.

Asked about the reported capture or killing of Al-Ghozi, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said: "We have no news that we can share (regarding that)."

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff, echoed the position of Reyes and Lina, saying that Task Force Tabak was pressing on with its manhunt for the self-confessed member of Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian terror network.

"We have no word regarding reports that he has been killed or he's under our custody. We're still continuing with our operations in tracking him down in Lanao del Norte," Garcia, who had gone to Lanao del Norte over the weekend, said in a phone interview.

Garcia believes that Al-Ghozi remained in hiding in Sultan Naga Dimaporo town in Lanao del Norte, where Abdulmukim Ong Edris, who escaped from Camp Crame along with Al-Ghozi, and a companion were reported to have been captured and later killed on Thursday.

Edris and his companion, Mahmoud Esmael, were killed after they allegedly grabbed the firearms of their escorts.

"We believe he's still in the area," Garcia said.

No longer in area

But Kyamko said Al-Ghozi was no longer in the area.

He said military units sent to recapture Al-Ghozi were being deployed away from the Lanao region. "He (Al-Ghozi) is already in another place. The troops are going to that direction," Kyamko said without elaborating.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said that he and the President had obtained separate reports that Al-Ghozi had moved to Cabuntalan, Maguindanao.

To avoid a "misunderstanding" with the MILF, the military has asked permission from the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) to enter Lanao del Norte to look for Al-Ghozi, according to presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

Three men, believed to be part of a group protecting Al-Ghozi, were killed during a clash with members of the Task Force Panther in Lanao del Norte at the Sampinitan Complex in Sultan Naga Dimaporo before noon Sunday.

The government and the MILF have agreed to send a "joint inspection team" to Lanao del Norte to monitor the ongoing military operation against the Indonesian terrorist.

Garcia, head of the government's CCCH, said the joint inspection team, composed of six members (three each from the government and the MILF) left Cotabato City for Lanao on Sunday.

"They were sent there to inform the MILF rebels that they are not the target of the ongoing military operation. They will also ask them to move out from the military target to avoid being hit," Garcia said.

Benjie Midtimbang, CCCH chair for the MILF, said the group's representatives would try to "convince MILF field commanders to allow government troops to continue with their massive hunt for Al-Ghozi."

Midtimbang said that sending of MILF emissaries to Lanao "was a clear manifestation of our adherence to the peace process because we do not want anymore confrontation with government troops."

"This is to prove to every citizen, not only to the government, that we in the MILF is very much interested and sincere that a peace negotiation is reached so the people in Mindanao can start developing themselves after years of economic hardship and social dislocation," he said.

The government and the MILF are expected to begin talks in Malaysia shortly to discuss a political settlement to the decades-old rebellion. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Gil Cabacungan and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP*

Café with legs sizzles in uptight Chile

From page A1

strict morals has cropped up in coffee houses that are tantalizingly similar to strip bars.

Behind smoky windows and under dim lights, young women in bikinis serve shots of espresso, mostly to men. There are more than 100 "cafes con piernas," or "cafes with legs," across the city, and some say they have become the signature of modern Santiago.

"Some go to the beach to look at women, and others go to the cafe," said coffee drinker Zamora, a 34-year-old accountant.

Vanessa Valdez, 20, has worked in coffee bars for two years and says she has learned much about herself and the nature of men.

She shoots a look at a young man entering the coffee bar. Her high heels click as she approaches. She flicks her hair over a bare shoulder, and leans slowly over the bar to kiss him. She saunters to the back of the catwalk where a man in the shadows keeps an espresso machine hissing and churning.

Returning with a shot of espresso, she pours a ribbon of sugar into the nearly overflowing cup. She mixes the sugar with a spoon, all the while looking into the young man's eyes.

There are no seats in these coffee bars, simply a thin bar separating the men from the women. The women stand on a catwalk a foot above the customers, giving them a leverage over the men and the men an almost worshipful view of the servers.

Valdez says a woman needs a certain attitude to carry off the job: "You have to dominate the men, or they'll dominate you."

Most of the coffee bars are in the maze-like corridors in the city's financial district, where businessmen dominate the clientele. There are three rush hours—before work, during the lunch hour and after work. The coffee drinkers include couples and women alone, but the overwhelming majority are men.

Closed minds

Miguel Angel Morales opened the first bikini coffee bar seven years ago with the idea he could change attitudes in Santiago, which is known for its open economy and—some say—its closed minds.

Calling himself a pioneer of social consciousness, Morales declared his goal was to lighten the tension between men and women "in a country that has buried its sexual desires for centuries."

SCANTILY **clad and very well-endowed waitresses line up outside a popular coffee bar in Santiago, Chile. This is one place guaranteed to perk up more than just the spirits of its patrons.** AP

"I offer a place where a man can desire a woman and not feel penitent about it," Morales said. "It's only women in bikinis. It's nothing you don't see on TV."

The coffee bar quickly exploded into a trend in a society still searching for freedom of expression a dozen years after the end of Augusto Pinochet's 17-year military dictatorship. At latest count, there were about 130 of the coffee bars in a city of 5.5 million.

Some complain that the less inhibited attitude in the coffee bars has come at the expense of women's dignity.

"I'm not against the coffee bars for puritanical reasons, but because it uses women's bodies for commerce," said Maria Antonieta Saa, a legislator in Santiago. "On the surface, they're selling coffee, but really they're selling women's bodies."

But Margarita, a coffee server who refused to give her last name, says it's the men who lose their dignity in the coffee bar setting, noting it shows up the "depraved simplicity" of men's minds.

Total game

"It's a total game," Margarita said. "I like to look at the guys in the mirrors as I walk away and watch them ogle me. They look so pathetic."

Although the conservative mayor of Santiago, Joaquin Lavin, shut down a string of coffee bars last year for ties to prostitution, at most bars the discourse between men and women transpires within the brief minutes it takes to finish an espresso or cappuccino.

"It's very innocent and different than the crudeness one might find in some clubs in the United States," said John Orenticher, the director of art media studies at Syracuse University, who made a short film about the coffee bars.

Some entrepreneurs tried to export Santiago's coffee bars to more liberal Argentina, but it didn't work.

"It failed because the Argentines are used to seeing topless women on the beach," Morales said. "Coffee bars will only work in Santiago, because Chileans are so uptight." *AP*

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2 colonels, major nabbed

AVINANTE PDI NORTHERN LUZON

LIMBO

TEJARES

From page A1

failed coup attempt against the Aquino administration in December 1989. Together with the other coup plotters and Honasan himself, he was given amnesty in 1995.

Records showed that Limbo was with the Army's Plans and Programs unit while Tejares was detailed with the 10th Infantry Battalion.

Their names were contained in a master list culled from the diskettes, Garcia said.

"By how it appears in the master list, one is identified as Limbo with the code name Ilog. One active officer is named there in the document, Demy Tejares, code named Lawin, and one Avinante, whose code name is Ama," he said at a press briefing.

The three officers now "are under the control of their respective commanders," Garcia said.

"They are part of the elders. And when you say elders, that would be in the group of the advisers," he added.

The master list also includes the names of retired officers such as Oscar "Tito" Legaspi and Melchor Acosta Jr., both members of PMA Class of 1971, and Felix Turingan of PMA Class of 1965, Garcia said.

Officers implicated

Citing information recovered from the diskettes, Garcia said that a total of 222 joined the mutiny, including 215 officers and seven civilians.

Of the 222, 100 came from the Army, 18 from the Air Force and 97 from the Philippine Marines.

So far, 100 soldiers have been detained while 75 others have been neutralized.

There were 147 other officers and personnel who were reported missing but were later reported accounted for, Garcia said. "They are being questioned; there is an ongoing dialogue with their commanders since their names had been found in the master list."

Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina said all mutineers had been accounted for, which prompted Malacañang to lift the state of rebellion it had declared on July 27.

After the lifting of the state of rebellion, the military declassified the detailed plot by the mutineers, dubbed "Campaign Plan Andres." The plot consisted of four phases: preparation, direct action, consolidation and civil administration.

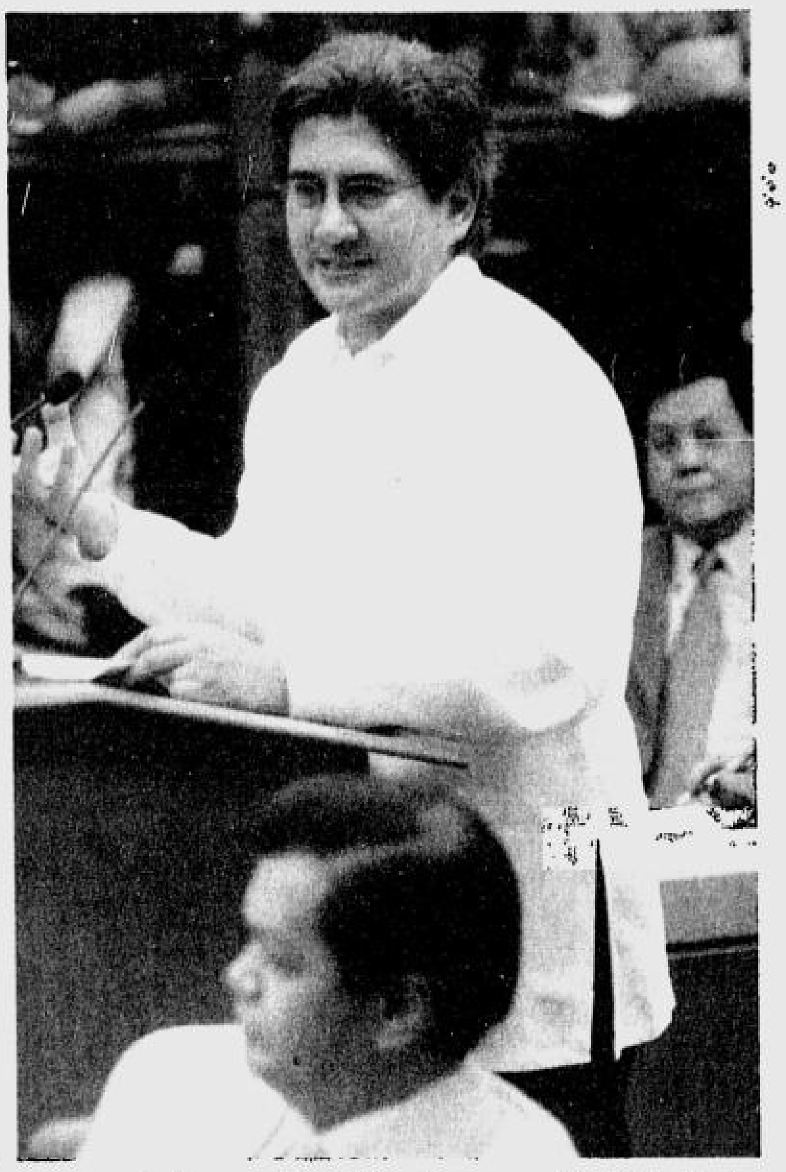
The first two phases included the takeover of Malacañang, Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame, and control of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the airports in Mactan, Cebu and General Santos City.

These also entailed the takeover of the GMA-7 television network and radio station dzRH and the disabling of communication and power lines, among others.

The third phase entailed the installation of "Kuya," followed by the implementation of the National Recovery Program in the final phase.

"Campaign Plan Andres is the totality of what was going to happen had the rebels (in) Makati succeeded. It's actually a combination of military and political actions," Garcia said.

In telephone interviews aired over radio and television stations last week, Honasan denied any involvement in the coup plot. *With a report from AFP*


SEN. Gregorio Honasan defends himself from accusations linking him to the Oakwood mutiny during his privilege speech at the Senate.

PDI PHOTO

GMA lifts state of rebellion

From page A1

plotter or civilian backer.

Ms Macapagal said the state of rebellion was not a "political Sword of Damocles" because no political group operating within the bounds of the Constitution had been threatened. The media, according to her, continue to have free rein.

"Any of my actions may be challenged before the Supreme Court to which I commit obedience. Nonetheless the threat has abated and while I am not scheduled to speak in this program, I decided to speak in order to announce that I am hereby lifting the state of rebellion," she said.

"And now that the state of rebellion has been lifted, even as we speak, in Camp Aguinaldo, Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, our vice chief of staff, is ready upon this signal to declassify the coup plot Andres except for the proper names of those who have not yet been named," Ms Macapagal said.

Shortly after the announcement, Garcia opened a nationally televised news conference explaining the details of the failed power grab.

Garcia said the takeover of Oakwood apartment complex and the Glorietta Mall in Makati was an alternative plan of the rebels following the discovery of the plot.

Code name: Kuya

The original plan would have involved the assassination of Ms Macapagal and other officials and the takeover of key installations.

"They intended to install somebody with the code name *Kuya* (Big Brother) as head of state," Garcia said. "*Kuya* referred to Sen. Gregorio Honasan." Honasan has gone into hiding after the government filed a rebellion complaint against him at the justice department last week.

In telephone interviews aired over Manila radio and television stations last week, Honasan, 55, denied any involvement in the alleged coup plot. A former Army colonel, the senator led several bloody coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the late 1980s. He was later granted amnesty as part of a peace pact.

Garcia said the rebels' first option was to use much larger military units of at least "600 officers and men" to simultaneously take over Malacañang, key military camps, the Manila airport, and television and radio stations.

Rebel officers detailed with the Presidential Security Group were to have led the "convoy of the President near where (other) members of the group would be lying in wait to conduct an ambush."

Original plan

He said the coup attempt was to have been launched on Aug. 2, but the rebels were forced to take their other option when the government uncovered the plot.

"The Malacañang Palace was going to be stormed by Marines and Navy Special Warfare Group," Garcia told reporters.

He said details of the plot were found in computer diskettes recovered from the rogue soldiers after the Makati siege. It detailed the names of the plot's financial backers and participants, he said.

Garcia said that aside from those who have been charged, 140 other military officers whose names also appeared in the diskettes have been confined to barracks.

The diskette listed the aliases of three more senior officers ranked up to colonel who served as the rebels' advisers, he said, adding that the military already had an idea on their identities. Aside from Honasan, Garcia did not identify the other alleged civilian participants.

Already indicted on coup charges are 321 young officers and soldiers who took over Oakwood, rigging the area with bombs. A 20-hour standoff ended peacefully. Besides Honasan, also charged in the case are Laarni Enriquez, a mistress of deposed President Joseph Estrada, and Ramon Cardenas, Estrada's former deputy executive secretary.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said despite the lifting of the state of rebellion by Malacañang, the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police would remain on alert.

Lina said the government was still in the last stages of mopping up operations against the remnants of the failed coup attempt.

Oversight committee

Before making the announcement, Ms Macapagal met with the members of the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security yesterday morning, according to Bunye.

"The evaluation of our security group is that the threat is under control," Bunye said. "That's the principal reason why she has lifted the state of rebellion."

If there are others involved in the Makati mutiny who have not been charged, they can still be charged even if the state of rebellion is no longer in effect, the presidential spokesperson said.

"It's possible that there would be more charges and arrests. Because, even without the state of rebellion, those proven to be involved in the Makati coup would still be charged," he said.

Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces chief of staff, said: "If warrants of arrest are issued against the other components (of the coup), they will be arrested."

At the awarding ceremony, Ms Macapagal thanked Metrobank and the Rotary Club of Makati Metro and hailed the nine TOPS awardees.

"Awardees, I thank you, too, because you reinforce the people's faith and confidence in our soldiery especially after the failed Oakwood mutiny," the President said.

She announced that from hereon, any soldier or officer who gets an award for the performance of his or her duty, would be given priority in the housing, educational, medical and other benefits of the command.

"I cannot bear to see those who bear the brunt of the fighting being left behind when it comes to the benefits of the commands. And it is our policy to reward the best and the bravest of our fighters with whatever our resources can offer," she said.

The greater the valor, the more the reward," she added.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal reiterated her call to the public to "set aside the Oakwood syndrome and get on with matters that require earnest vigilance, especially the ever-constant threat of terrorism."

"I call on the public to erase and stop spreading rumors and speculations contained in text messages about false troop movements and armor deployments. Let us keep our eyes and ears focused on terrorist threats for these are ever present," she said. ***With reports from AFP and Nelson Forte Flores***

Laarni comes out in public to deny rebellion raps

From page A1

visibly (*sic*) in fear. She said, 'I am now on the other side. They have threatened to charge me with rebellion and plunder,'" Enriquez said, who repeated the same claim in various radio and television interviews yesterday. Magpoc has been in Laarni's employ for five years now.

The Department of Justice denied that Magpoc had been coerced. Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida retorted: "If it was true that the deposed President had nothing to do with the mutiny, then why did he try to convince Magpoc to defer the submission of her affidavit?"

"We haven't reached that conclusion (that Estrada is involved) yet why would he talk to Liezel Magpoc and ask her not to submit her affidavit? That would raise questions," Calida said.

In her affidavit, Magpoc said Estrada on July 30 tried to convince her to defer submitting the document because his group "had thought of something."

"What was it that they thought about? You cannot fathom that and we cannot speculate," Calida said.

Magpoc is the listed owner of the townhouse in Mandaluyong City which the mutineers allegedly used as one of their safehouses.

Magpoc, who used to act as Laarni's "marketing consultant," also claimed that a contractor of the house ordered its caretakers to leave before the mutineers reportedly came over.

She said the order came from a certain "Ma'am" and a certain "Mayor," whom she did not identify.

Laarni did not deny owning the house, but said she would be the last person to put her family at risk by "inviting rebel soldiers to use my house as a staging area for a coup and leave incriminating evidence behind."

No reconciliation

To the latest round of accusations against the deposed President and his extensive family, Estrada's son by another mistress said he had already ruled out reconciliation with those who ousted his father.

"You cannot expect reconciliation anymore," said San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, son of Estrada and actress Guia Gomez, even as he denounced attempts to tie his family to the Oakwood mutiny.

"The Filipinos are seeing this. They already grabbed power from the duly elected president of the land, and now that he is out of power, they continue to step on him," he said.

"I don't think we will really find reconciliation in the future with what they are doing to our family," Ejercito said.

But Ejercito said his family was stronger now. "We have been strengthened by time and by trials we have gone through. We have endured," he said.

Ejercito said he expected his name to be dragged anew after Magpoc said that a "mayor" was involved. Magpoc could only have been referring to him or Jinggoy Estrada, he said.

"After all, there are only two mayors in the family—Jinggoy and me."

But Ejercito denied ever knowing Magpoc. He also criticized the media for "putting too much emphasis on the political aspect of the rebellion."

Both Enriquez and Magpoc have been placed on the Bureau of Immigration's watchlist, based on a recommendation from the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Mandaluyong City police.

Magpoc's statement

Appearing for the first time since her name was dragged into the limelight, Magpoc denied that she had been coerced into producing the supplemental affidavit.

"Coming out was not an easy decision especially when friendship is at stake. It was a difficult and tormenting week for me when my name came out as the owner of the townhouse in Vargas, Mandaluyong City," she said.

Magpoc, who appeared tired and sleepless, said she "voluntarily and freely executed" the second affidavit with the assistance of her lawyers.

"To admit something that is completely false means sacrificing my family especially the welfare of my three young boys," she said, fighting back tears. "This I will not allow to happen because all I want is a peaceful and quiet life for me and my family."

Magpoc's lawyers said she is now under the care of DOJ's Witness Protection Program.

When asked if there was any threat against her, Magpoc said she did not know.

Lawyer Patricia Galang said authorities did not threaten to sue Magpoc if she refused to cooperate. "(But) as lawyers, we know the legal possibilities with the fact that she was the registered owner (of the townhouse). There was no actual threat emanating from the police that they are going to file charges against her," Galang said.

No warrant

Magpoc confirmed that Estrada asked her over the phone to defer the submission of her second affidavit. But she said Estrada did not ask her to desist from testifying against Enriquez, whom she has known since 1996.

Rufus Rodriguez, counsel for Enriquez and immigration chief during Estrada's abbreviated term, said he would seek the dismissal of the case against Enriquez on the ground that the search was done without a warrant.

He also shot down the claim that soldiers stumbled upon the evidence while chasing two rebel soldiers in uniform as an "afterthought" conceptualized to cover the lack of search warrant.

Rodriguez also said he would file the appropriate charges in the Office of the Ombudsman against the government men who conducted the search.

Enriquez said she was open to the possibility of being arrested and jailed and had advised her children to "expect a worst-case scenario."

Enriquez's daughter Jerika—who is studying at Cobham Hall in Kent, England—said the situation now made her "very scared for our family."

Enriquez said the idea that she would be sent to jail had affected her three children's performance in school. She added that her second child, Jacob, had been scoring poorly in his quizzes since last week.

"The charges are a hindrance to the children's focus," Enriquez said.

But she said she would not leave the country to escape justice. ***With reports from Philip Tubeza, Martin Marfil and Nelson Flores***

MAGPOC: Not an easy decision especially when friendship is at stake. It was a difficult and tormenting week for me when my name came out as the owner of the townhouse. RUDY ESPERAS

ENRIQUEZ: She called me up. She was crying and was visibly in fear. She said, 'I am now on the other side. They have threatened to charge me with rebellion and plunder,'" JOAN BONDOC

Maynilad Water rapped for overcharging clients

By Christine Gaylican

A MINOR dispute was filed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System-Regulatory Office (MWSS-RO) before the international arbitration panel charging Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI) of overcharging its customers in the west zone of Manila.

The MWSS-RO said this was based on records that Maynilad was still charging customers an additional P8.28 per cubic meter despite an MWSS board resolution issued in May stopping the MWSI from collecting these "excess charges" from the public.

"MWSS-RO has passed a resolution stopping Maynilad from collecting the P4.21 per cubic meter accelerated extraordinary price adjustment (a-EPA) because such foreign exchange recovery mechanism under amendment no. 1 (of the concession agreement) is only up to December 2002," a source from the MWSS said.

MWSI is allowed by MWSS-RO to recover its forex losses from 1997-2000 under the a-EPA but only up to end of last year.

At the same time, the MWSS-RO also passed a resolution stopping the MWSI from collecting the foreign currency differential adjustment (FDCA) amounting to P4.07 because such forex recovery mechanism was for the payment of concession fees to the MWSS.

"In as much as MWSI is not paying concession fees, the RO deemed it proper to stop MWSI from collecting (the amount)," the source said.

The MWSI has stopped paying its concession fees to MWSS totaling about P5 billion.

The alleged "excess charges" are estimated at P2.6 billion for the FCDA and P700 million for a-EPA charges from January to March this year.

"This could now amount to P5 billion as they have continued [including] these in their customers' bills until this month," the MWSS source added.

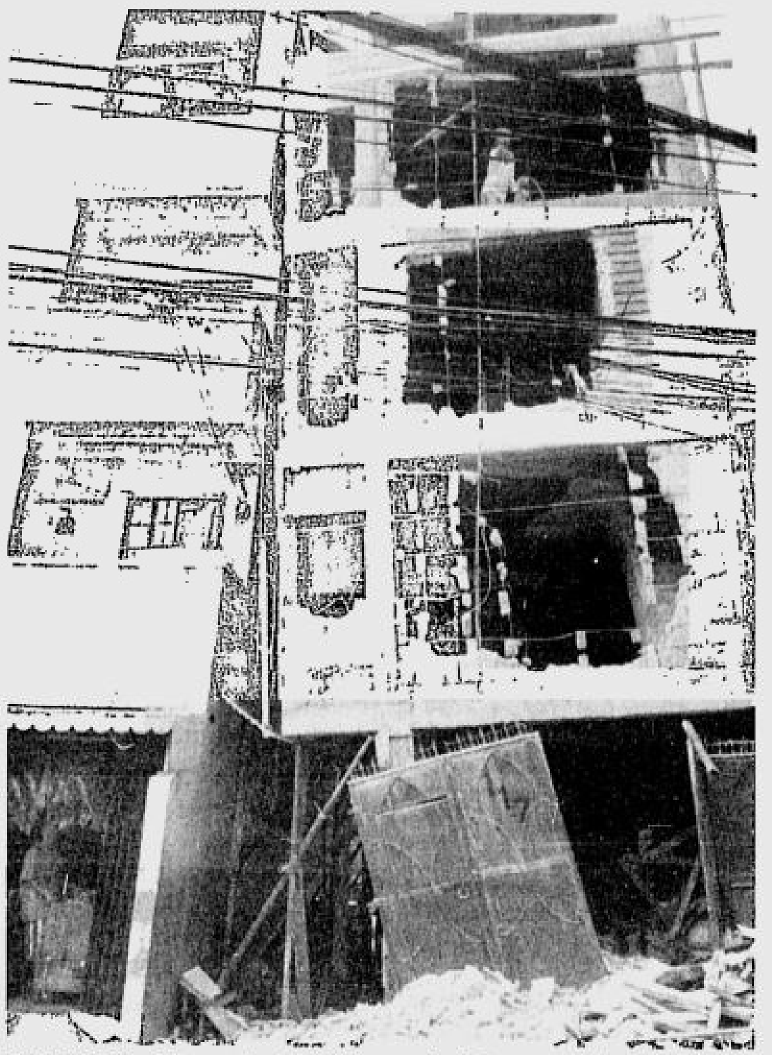
Meanwhile, the public has been barred even as observers in the arbitration proceedings that would settle the early termination dispute between the MWSS and the MWSI.

The arbitration proceedings, currently going on in Manila, will determine whether the MWSI or the MWSS is to blame for the failure of the five-year-old concession in the west zone.

According to civil society groups led by Bantay Tubig, they were stripped of their right to information when the International Arbitration Panel chaired by Dr. Alan Philip of the International Chamber of Commerce ruled out that the presence of observers is allowed in the proceedings.

In a statement, Bantay Tubig denounced the absence of transparency in the arbitration hearings.

The MWSI wanted the proceedings closed to the public.



THE LEAN, white-washed building on the left stopped the 5-story structure from collapsing under its own weight. JOAN BONDOC

Leaning building goes down

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

PANIC turned into laughter yesterday as people living near the half constructed building that nearly collapsed in Caloocan City, turned out in droves to watch a wrecking crew tear down the dangerous structure.

Residents gathered in front of the building, and laughed at the wreckers tearing out concrete blocks from the building's fifth floor.

On Saturday morning, the same residents fearfully walked out of their houses when the five-story structure on West 2nd Avenue, Grace Park, literally collapsed under its own weight, and leaned against a building beside it.

Edgardo Alvarez, an engineer from Caloocan City Hall and leader of the demolition team, told the INQUIRER yesterday that the five-story building was originally designed as a two-story structure.

Another engineer said the ground floor structure gave way, causing the building to lean, but not necessarily collapse.

Alvarez said that had the building leaned on the other side, it would have crumbled down on the bungalows beside it.

The building is owned by a Jaime Pinili, whose house is located at the back of the structure. His children said he was still confined in a hospital after suffering a mild heart attack.

Pinili's son, Ryan, 27, said that his family had already spent more than P1.3 million for the structure that is now being demolished.

Go easy on lifestyle check, NPDO chief tells watchdog

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

POLICE officials welcome the lifestyle check on the top brass of the Philippine National Police, but cautioned government watchdogs to conduct the check "carefully and quietly."

Northern Police District director Marcelino Franco told the INQUIRER that while the lifestyle check on military and police officials was timely, he said the government should be careful to avoid unnecessarily destroying the reputation of innocent persons.

Franco said it would be premature for the government to declare that an official has been living beyond his or her means "by just looking at their houses."

He said the agency in charge—the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC)—should first examine how the system worked, before probing the personal lives of people.

Franco cited how officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines were subjected to trial by publicity, especially after news accounts revealed the existence of "mansions" belonging to some generals.

The PAGC, on orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo, began checking the financial status of police officials and their means of income after disgruntled military men mounted the July 27 mutiny and revealed how AFP and PNP officials have been enriching themselves through corrupt activities.

The mutineers' claims had been picked up by the media.

Statements from the palace aired over radio stations yesterday said the lifestyle checks would be done to show the disgruntled young officers that the Macapagal administration does not tolerate corrupt officials.

According to Victor Ronquillo, Caloocan City police deputy chief, the lifestyle check was long overdue.

"I don't know of any general living beyond his means, but I think the entire police force should abide by the lifestyle check," Ronquillo said.

Stabbed by frat man, hit by cab

YESTERDAY was a bad day for Alexander Valenzuela.

SP02 Jun Cuaresma said an unidentified fraternity man stabbed Valenzuela, 16, near the latter's house in Novaliches, Quezon City at around 1:30 a.m.

Half an hour later, as members of Valenzuela's family were taking the victim to the hospital, the driver of the ambulance they were riding in tried to beat the red light at the intersection of Quezon Avenue and Agham Road, and smashed into the taxi of Necomedes Decoy, 33.

Valenzuela survived, Cuaresma said. He was taken to St. Luke's Hospital, along with his four relatives, a barangay official, the ambulance driver, the cab driver and the taxi passenger. *Tina Santos*

METROBRIEFS

Tricked to death

DEATH came to delivery boy Ahadain Lapadan by treachery. Lapadan, 25, of Tondo, Manila, was allegedly stabbed dead by Roger Satur, 28, of Vitas, Tondo. SPO2 Edgardo Ko revealed that the two had an argument when they still worked together at Big AA General Merchandise on Vitas. Satur left the company in October 2002. On Saturday, an unidentified woman asked Lapadan to come out of the Big AA warehouse. Once Lapadan was outside, Satur allegedly suddenly appeared and stabbed him in the waist. Satur fled while Lapadan was rushed to the Mary Johnston Hospital where he died *Leila Salaverria*

Student slain

A POLICE manhunt is on for three men who shot to death a student at dawn yesterday in Marikina City. Victim Johnny Camba, 15, of 14, Ampalaya St., Tumana District was with his friend Mark Bautista while buying cigarettes from a neighborhood store when one of three men aboard a gray tricycle opened fire at them. Camba died instantly from a bullet wound in the back. The police have yet to determine the motive behind the killing.

Luige del Puerto

2 die in Rizal mishap

TWO people died while six others were wounded when their car hit an 18-wheeler truck at dawn yesterday in Binangonan, Rizal. The fatalities were identified as John Paul Miguel and Vincent Herrera, both 18. Meanwhile, those rushed to the Angono Municipal Hospital for treatment were Michael Rabueno, the driver, Alexander Tullana, Jeffrey Jequena, Edgardo Mallo, Aldrin Seguerra and Corsalino Cervantes, all of Barangay Calumpang. The red Fiera with license plate WGR-195 lost control while cruising along Barangay Pag-asa. It hit a parked Isuzu truck (NGW-232), which was loaded with cement.

Luige del Puerto

The plight of a reporter in the field

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NEWS of the recapture of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi probably sent some police officials trembling in panic. They would soon be exposed.

But the news, which was carried by a major daily, turned out to be a bum steer. Al-Ghozi is still in hiding and might wreak havoc anew on the unwary population.

To the soldiers and policemen who may recapture Al-Ghozi: Please bring him back alive so those corrupt police officials who made him bolt jail will be exposed!

* * *

The INQUIRER on Sunday reported the death of the Indonesian terrorist whose escape from Camp Crame jail embarrassed the Macapagal-Arroyo government.

Al-Ghozi's supposed death at the hands of the pursuing military came from a diplomat. Another source not related to the diplomat also reported the Indonesian's death.

My source in the intelligence community said yesterday's stories about Al-Ghozi's supposed death or recapture were "all false alarm."

In the maze of incoming reports and a deadline to catch, it's difficult to determine which information is accurate and which is "false alarm."

* * *

I was once a reporter myself and I can understand the dilemma faced by a reporter in the field.

The reporter covering a running news story like Al-Ghozi's is hard put trying to determine which report to believe and which to discard.

People who readily blame reporters for inaccurate information that finds print or is broadcast have not experienced the agony of being in the field.

* * *

A "truth commission" should handle the compensation of victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime, the Presidential Commission on Good Government proposes.

The PCGG says the independent body would determine who the real victims were and how much compensation they should be given.

How about a "truth serum" for new claimants?

* * *

After so many years, it will be very hard to know whether the people who come out to claim they, too, were martial law victims are telling the truth.

Part of the $683 million in Marcos Swiss deposits will go to human rights victims during the martial law regime; the others will be spent on land reform.

With that huge amount, many people will be tempted to fabricate stories so they can have part of the money.

* * *

People who were already adults when World War II ended are reminded of the guerrilla claims.

Thousands of Filipinos filed for compensation for supposedly taking part in the guerrilla movement against the Japanese military when all they did was scratch their balls during the war years.

Many of those who filed for claims were too young to become guerrillas.

* * *

I remember a story my Dad kept telling me about people who claimed they were guerrillas during the Japanese Occupation.

These supposed ex-guerrillas, he said, paraded themselves in uniform with officer ranks.

One day at a mess (dining) hall, American and Filipino soldiers were eating side by side.

An American major in his late 30's noticed that many Filipino officers were sporting the ranks of lieutenant colonel or full-fledged colonel. These guys were former guerrillas absorbed by the American liberation forces.

The American asked a youngish looking Filipino who had the lieutenant colonel insignia how old he was. In his 20s was the reply.

"Oh, my God," commented the American officer, "when you reach 40 you'll be Jesus Christ!"

* * *

Acting Secretary Florante Soriquez of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has ordered the creation of an "integrity board" allegedly to stop corruption in the graft-ridden agency.

Some DPWH insiders say Soriquez does not have the moral authority to create an anti-graft body within the department because he himself is not clean and honest.

The acting DPWH chief has a pending case with the Sandiganbayan in connection with the P2.7 billion laharscam.

* * *

The Sandiganbayan charge sheet says Soriquez, as director of the Mt. Pinatubo Rehabilitation Project, allowed a contractor to collect P38,289,708.61 from his agency even after the portion of the megadike handled by the contractor collapsed due to its substandard construction.

Soriquez, according to DPWH insiders, was able to delay the hearing of the Sandiganbayan case for many years. But last year, the graft court ordered the suspension of Soriquez and his co-accused DPWH officials.

The suspension, however, was not carried out for unknown reasons, according to sources.

MMDA nets 205 'yellow lane' busts

By Margaux Ortiz

THEY mean business.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is serious about its re-implementation of the "yellow lane" scheme.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios yesterday reported that traffic enforcers apprehended about 175 buses and 30 private vehicles on the first day of the re-implementation.

Under the traffic scheme, buses and other public utility vehicles will be confined to a lane on the outermost side of Edsa marked by a yellow line.

Private vehicles will be banned from entering the yellow lane, except when unloading passengers of executing a right turn into an intersection.

MMDA officials had earlier warned that violators will be slapped with a P300 fine for the first offense, and P1,000 for the second offense. For the third offense, the driver's license would be suspended.

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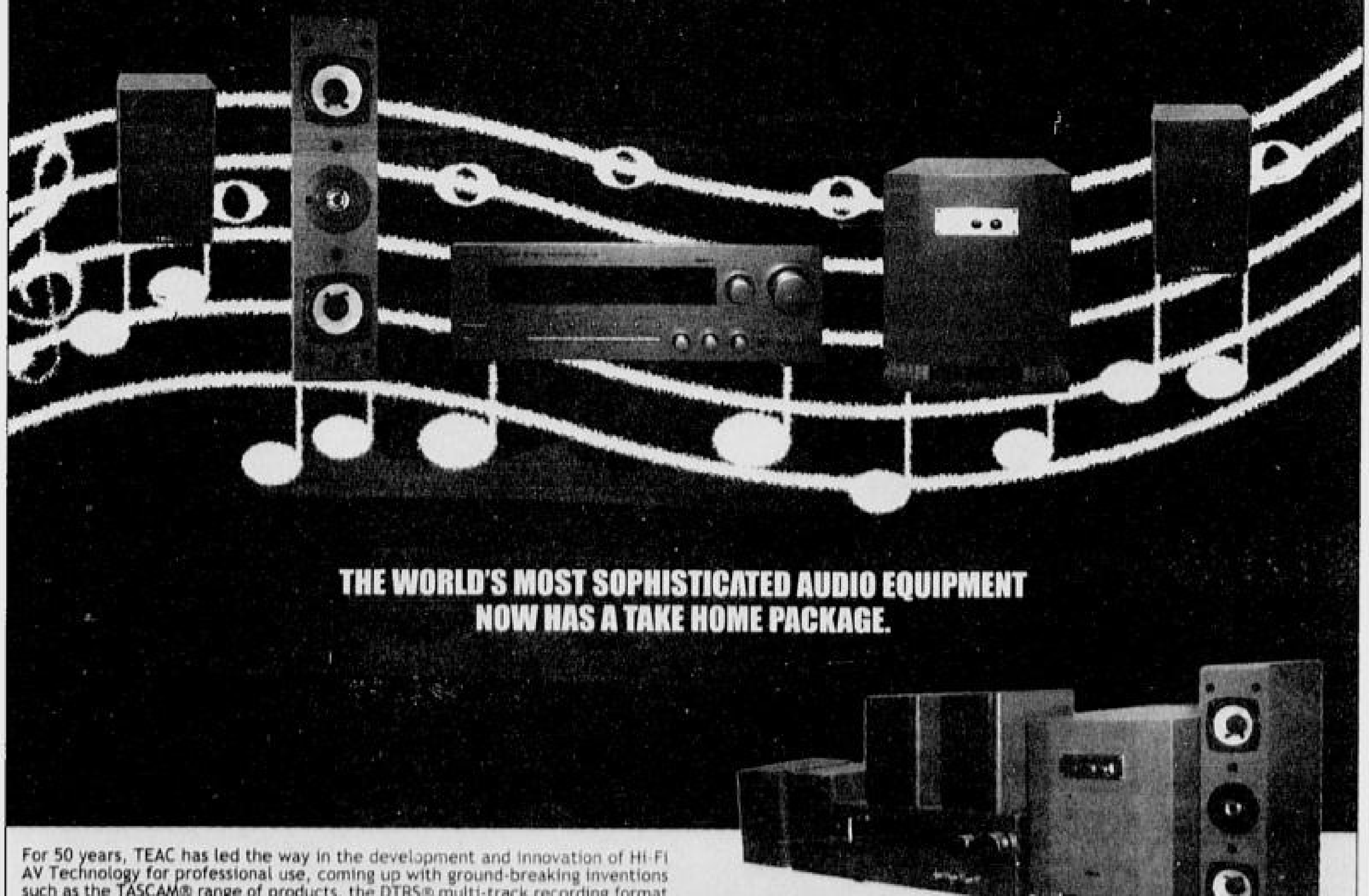

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

DEATH OF CALISAAN QUADRUPLETS

DOH clears MCU, shuts down clinic

By Blanche S. Rivera

NOT GUILTY.

The fact-finding team created by the Department of Health to investigate the Calisaan quadruplets' death, has cleared the hospitals of any liability in the case and blamed instead the small maternity clinic that gave inadequate prenatal care to the quadruplets' mother.

MOTHER Jocelyn Calisaan sheds tears in this file photo upon learning that her three daughters had died. Above, Maria Jhobelle was last to go.

Judge Samilo Barlongay, head of the five-member fact-finding team, said yesterday that except for minor violations of department orders, "the committee found no action by the (Manila Central University) hospital which is inconsistent with the existing rules and regulations."

The DOH, however, closed down the Espiritu Maternity and Medical Clinic where the Calisaan quadruplets were delivered on July 15.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit disclosed that the maternity clinic had operated without a license and that its owner, Dr. Francisco Espiritu, had failed to apprise the Calisaan couple of the dangers of multiple pregnancy.

"The survival of the babies depended so much on Dr. Espiritu, who conducted prenatal checkup on the mother," the team said.

An ocular inspection showed that the maternity clinic was "not suitable and ill-equipped" to handle such complicated pregnancies.

The team also found that none of six other hospitals called for referral by Dr. Grace Navarro of the MCU hospital violated the no-deposit law.

"In conclusion, the case... is not about lack of money or the social standing of the Calisaan[s]. It is more the ability of hospitals and health care providers... to serve, according to standards, those needing medical attention," Barlongay wrote in the report.

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2003

SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangulat

TENNIS: Western and Southern Financial Group Masters; 7 a.m. (r - 3:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) and 11 p.m.; Star Sports— First round action continues from Ohio.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Mobil 1 German Grand Prix; 8 p.m. (r); Star Sports - Check out Juan Pablo Montoya's conquest of the German track.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Jun B clarifies issue on stiff P500,000 fine

By June Navarro

THERE'S no restriction for Asi Taulava and Rudy Hatfield and their teams are in no threat of being fined even if they continue to play in the ongoing Samsung-PBA Invitational championship.

This is because Taulava and Hatfield, along with three other Fil-foreign players recommended to be deported by the Senate last Thursday, have already been granted Filipino citizenship by the Department of Justice, former PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino explained yesterday.

Bernardino told the INQUIRER that the PBA policy on the P500,000 fine was only for teams fielding a Fil-foreign player that has no clearance from the DOJ as in the case of Sonny Alvarado of Tanduay several seasons ago.

"Unlike Alvarado, these five Fil-fors have already been confirmed by the Department of Justice" said Bernardino.

The clarification came after current commissioner Noli Eala announced yesterday that the five foreign players found by the Senate to have submitted fake documents to acquire Filipino citizenship will have to stop playing, lest their respective teams incur a fine of P500,000 per game, if a case is filed against them.

The PBA Players Union headed by former star Jojo Lastimosa and Alvin Patrimonio of Purefoods had already announced they would file charges against the five once the Senate approves the recommendation for their deportation during a plenary session set yesterday.

The plenary session was rescheduled for today.

Only Taulava and Hatfield are still playing in the Invitationals for Talk 'N Text and Coca-Cola, respectively. The three others—Andy Seigle of Purefoods, Davonn Harp of Red Bull and Jon Ordonio—are out of the tournament for various reasons.

Seigle is idle because Purefoods did not make it to the Invitationals; Harp is under suspension for failing a drug test and Ordonio has been placed in the reserve list.

"Taulava and the four other Fil-fors presented their DOJ confirmations and the PBA allowed them to play," said Bernardino.

"Thus, they are considered Filipino citizens. The only way they could be deported is for the DOJ to revoke their citizenship by filing charges against them in court," he added.

Bernardino said there was a difference

JUN/ A20

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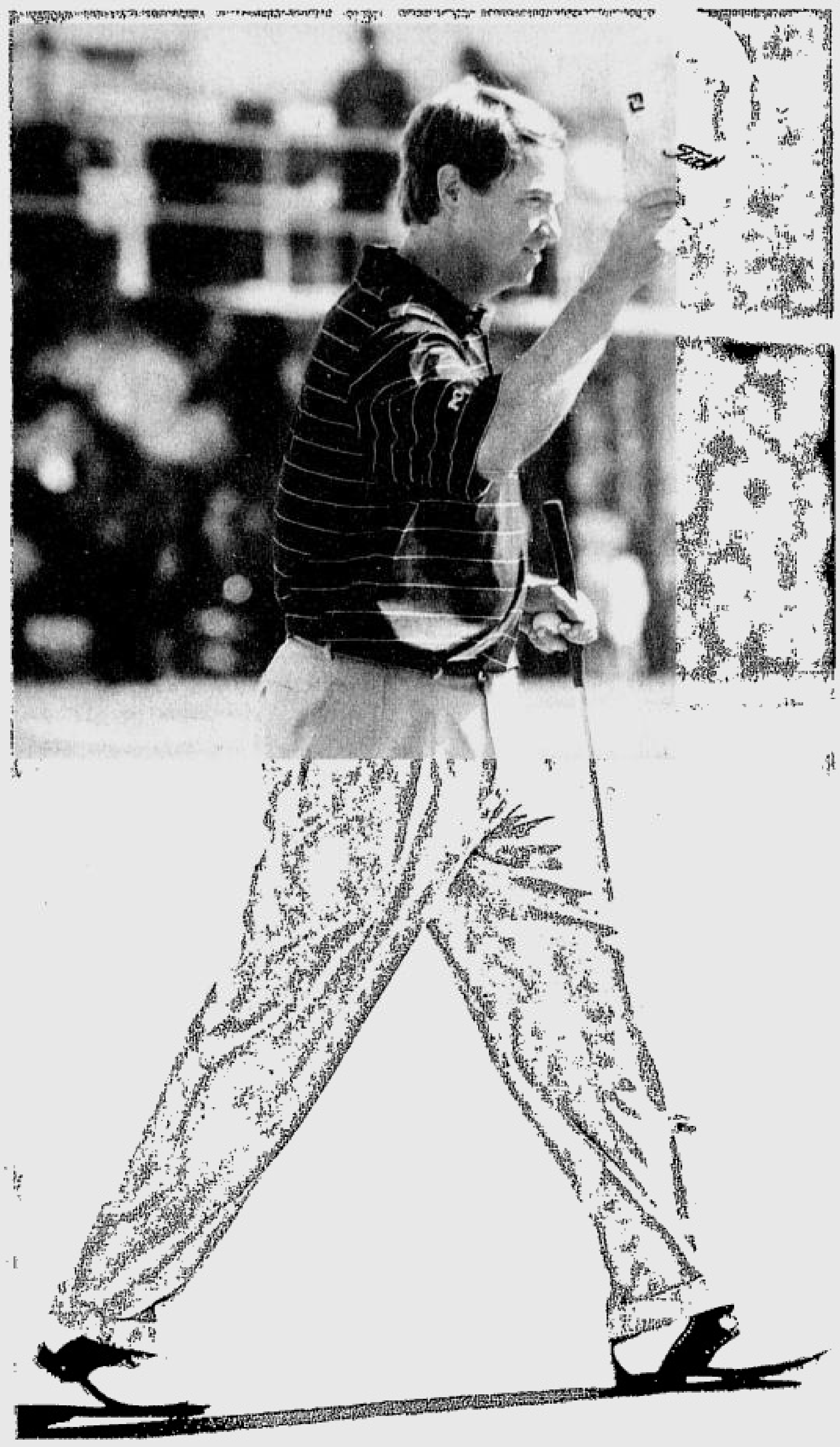


LOVE III tips his hat to the crowd on the 18th hole as he wins The International. AFP

WIRE-TO-WIRE VICTORY

Love conquers all

CASTLE ROCK, Colorado—Davis Love III birdied three of his first four holes Sunday at The International and cruised to his fourth victory of the season.

Love led wire-to-wire for his 18th career title. He also vaulted from fourth to first on the PGA Tour's money list with $5.1 million heading into next week's PGA Championship.

Love, who began the final round with 41 points, added 5 points under the modified Stableford scoring system used in this event and beat Vijay Singh and Retief Goosen by a tournament-record 12 points.

Chris DiMarco was another point back at 33, and John Rollins had 31. Ernie Els and Phil Mickelson each had 26.

The scoring system gives players 8 points for a double eagle, 5 points for an eagle, 2 points for birdie, zero for par, minus-1 for bogey and minus-3 for double bogey or worse. Rich Beem won last year with a four-round total of 44 points.

The field, cut after 36 holes, was trimmed again Saturday to the low 36 players and ties for Sunday's final round.

Love got off to a quick start, sinking a 25-foot birdie putt on the first hole. After three-putting No. 2 for bogey, he rebounded with two more birdies, making putts of 15 and 4 feet.

That boosted his lead to 15 points over Rollins, who made four straight pars.

Love's lead went to 16 points after Rollins bogeyed No. 7.

Love saved par at the par-5 eighth hole. His second shot settled at the base of a tree and he had to punch out. He then pitched to 4 feet, however, and made the par putt.

Singh then made a move. After birdies at the seventh and eighth holes, he made an improbable birdie at No. 10 to get to 33 points and cut Love's lead to 13.

Thai scores

GLADWYNE, Pennsylvania—Six years after leaving her father behind to pursue a golf career in the United States, Thailand's Virada Nirapathpongporn earned an emotional victory for him.

Virada claimed the US Women's Amateur on Sunday, holding off Jane Park in the 36-hole final to become the 11th foreign-born champion in tournament history. An All-American at Duke University and last year's US collegiate champion, Virada never trailed over the final 22 holes and posted a 2 and 1 victory. *AFP*

Birdie keys Han win over Ward

DUBLIN, Ohio—Hee-Won Han had to work overtime to make sure she didn't settle for second place this time.

The runner-up a year ago, Han made a 25-foot birdie putt on the third hole of sudden death Sunday to beat Wendy Ward and win the Wendy's Championship for Children.

The clutch putt came on the 17th hole, where a short time before, Han lost a two-stroke lead.

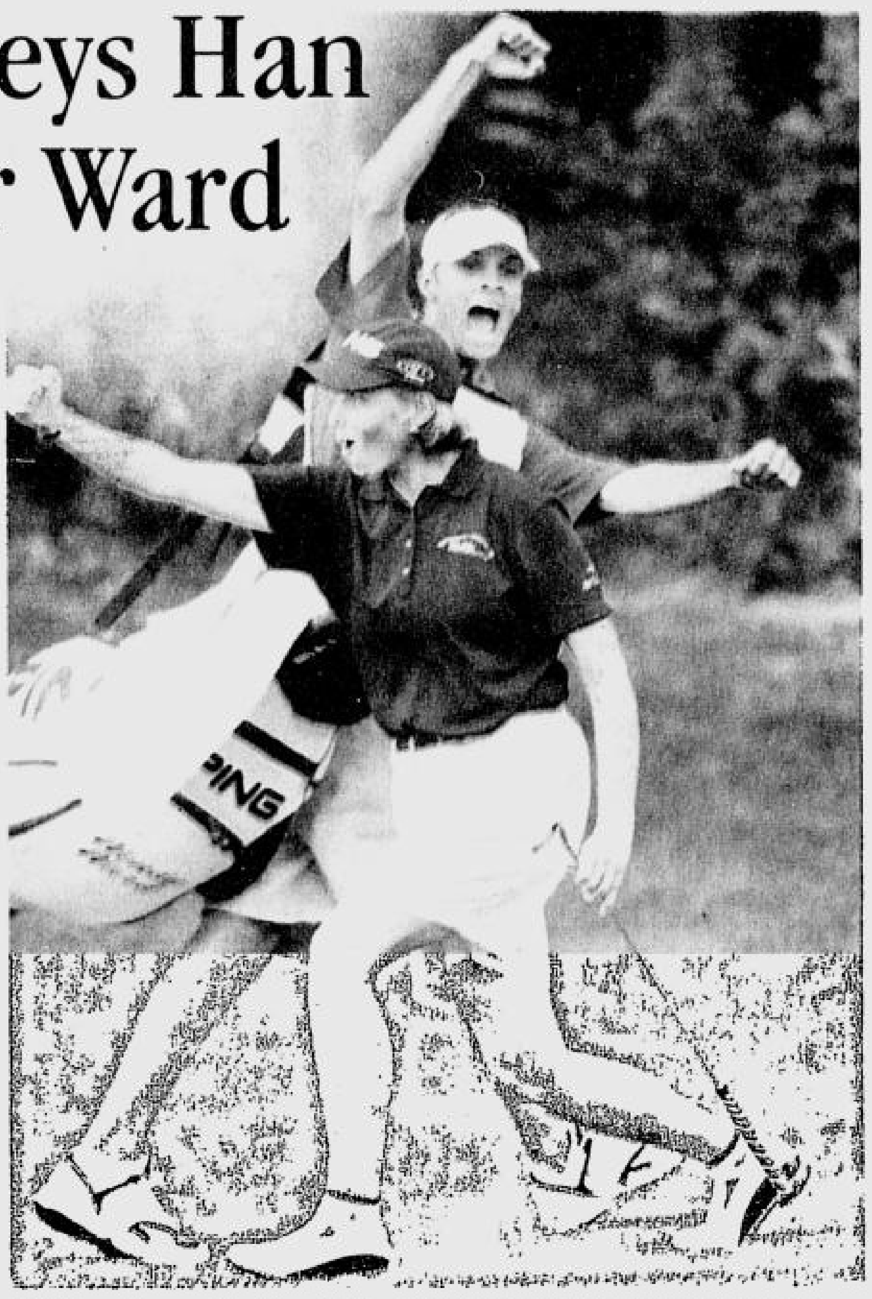
Han, who finished a shot behind Mi Hyun Kim a year ago, ended up at 17-under-par 199 to collect $165,000 for her second win of the year and her career. She held off Meg Mallon last month to win the Big Apple Classic.

Han closed with a 66, falling into the playoff when she bogeyed the par-3 17th hole just moments after Ward had birdied it. Both players parred the closing hole, just missing lengthy birdie putts.

Ward, who shot a 63 Sunday, could have closed it out on the first playoff hole but missed a 7-foot birdie putt after Han overshot the green. Han chipped to 3 feet and made the par putt to stay alive.

Hitting second, Ward's wedge from 118 yards flew the green and ended up on the back fringe.

Dorothy Delasin fired a final-day 70 and finished at 212. *AP*



WARD and her caddie Adam Hayes celebrate after Ward made a birdie putt from the fringe during the second playoff hole. AP

Few PSC officials going to Vietnam SEA Games

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission will be sending only a limited number of officials to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games set Dec. 5-13 in keeping with the "no-junket" policy of the SEAG Task Force.

Chair Eric Buhain said the PSC has also been very prudent in sending its officials to international competitions, adding that the four commissioners even take turns in joining previous RP delegations.

He said only four PSC officials will be included in the delegation in their capacity as members of the SEAG technical commission. They are Ed Mateo, Ariel Paredes, Sean Solis and Tats Suzara.

Buhain also clarified that most of the personnel working as staff of RP delegation chief of mission Julian Camacho are not PSC officials.

"In the case of the medical team, which is composed of PCSM (Philippine Center for Sports Medicine) members, they are in the contingent as PCSM personnel and not as PSC officials," said PSC spokesman Arsenic Lacson.

So far, the RP contingent is made of 377 athletes and 116 officials and coaches. There are 105 more athletes hoping to make it before next month's deadline while 50 more officials are expected to be added, many of them support personnel and members of the POC secretariat.

Meanwhile, the SEA Games-bound judo players are set to take part in the 22nd Summer Universiade Games in Daegu, South Korea on Aug. 16-31.

Multititled Charles Adam Oliver and Luan Jindani, who are expected to win gold in Vietnam, will be accompanied by Philippine Amateur Judo Association sports director Loleo Panganiban, who will serve as coach.

The 22-year-old Oliver, voted MVP and Rookie of the Year for 2002-2003, is being sponsored by the Philippine Olympic Committee through the Olympic Solidarity Movement.

A sports and forensic psychology student at the University of Santo Tomas, Oliver is a 3rd Dan blackbelt from Laguna. He has won several international and national-level competitions including the 1996 World International Judo Challenge in New York, where he was also voted Most Outstanding Youth.

Jun B clarifies . . .

From page A19

when he was running the PBA affairs.

"During my time, I made sure that certain policies and proposals go through the board first before I divulge it to the media. The job of a commissioner is something directly related to the games while policy matters is the board's business," said Bernardino.

"The commissioner can only recommend something to the board but in no way can he influence their decision," he added.

Meanwhile, the contract dispute between Air21-FedEx and Rene "Bong" Hawkins will be the main topic in today's board meeting.

Eala said Air21 president Lito Alvarez and Hawkins have agreed to settle the contract row amicably to prevent the case from reaching the courts.

Hawkins is asking for a complete payment on the remaining two years of a four-year contract worth P9.6 million which FedEx absorbed when it bought the Tanduay franchise.

Bernardino had earlier ruled that Hawkins should be paid the full amount of the contract, a decision which Eala upheld, but Alvarez filed an appeal before the board.

Eala said the case of NBN-4, which has accumulated at least P70 million in arrears since April, will also be tackled.

'Mayhem in Miami'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHEN you watch a fight, you expect real action. If you don't, you are either a nerd or a jerk.

The nation had lots of action on Sunday in the fight between Acelino Freitas and Jorge Barrios. Aired by Solar Sports, that superb TV wonder on Channel 29 of Sky Cable, the bout was a classic. It was enough to make your Sunday the Sunday of the Year.

Woe to those who didn't watch it on purpose, or simply failed to see it for one reason or another. They missed one half of their lives.

To begin with, the fight was between two legends. Both are 26. Both are South Americans. The commonalities end there.

The unbeaten Freitas is an icon in Brazil, the owner of 33 wins in 33 fights (30 by knockout) before Sunday's bout.

Barrios is a hero in Argentina, the owner of 39 wins (29 by knockout) in 41 fights, with just one loss and one draw before Sunday's encounter.

They carved their legend behind exceptional fighting styles.

Freitas, tall and good looking, fights from the outside, and is a virtual exponent of the sweet science. He'd throw bombs with calculating proficiency. He is the smaller version of Muhammad Ali: Unleashing shots without waste, attacking not in haste.

Barrios, looking more like a medieval age clown than one endowed with a pair of mean fists, is the snorting type. He spews fire without letup that anyone made of lesser stuff would get steamrollered in his wake. He is the smaller version of Joe Frazier: The word back-pedal is not in his dictionary, only "fast forward."

If you've seen the "Thrilla in Manila" on Oct. 1, 1975 between Ali and Frazier that's now being indisputably billed the "Fight of the Century," then you've got a near replica of that in "Mayhem in Miami" between Freitas and Barrios on Aug. 10, 2003.

After Ali won the "Thrilla" by TKO in the 14th of a scheduled 15-rounder when Frazier failed to answer the bell for the 15th, his first words were: "It was a fight like I was near death."

Look, Freitas appeared set to win by decision until he got tagged by a left to the face and fell before the end of the 8th round. In the 11th, Barrios knocked Freitas down again, this time with a left-right combination 40 seconds into the round.

Those two knockdowns catapulted the bloodied and badly battered Barrios back into the fight. With one round left the score was one judge each for Freitas and Barrios while the third judge had it even.

It was all-or-nothing in the 12th and last round.

And then it happened.

Just 35 merciful seconds into the 12th, Freitas nailed Barrios with a right to the face. Barrios fell but before doing so, he trembled like a shaken tenpin desperately refusing to fall.

Even as he got up for a standing 8-count, Barrios was finished.

Even before referee Jorge Alonso could wave the signal ordering a continuation of the fight, it was obvious Barrios had no more to give.

Another Freitas shot to the face ended Barrios' dream of lifting the 130-pound crown from the Brazilian. When Alonso finally waved Barrios out of it 50 ticks into the round, Barrios, glassy-eyed, didn't exactly know where he was, didn't exactly know what hit him.

Barrios clearly knew he had two ugly cuts above his left eye beginning in the 4th, and a ruptured right eardrum beginning in the 6th. But he never knew what finally did him in in that fateful 12th.

He had been fighting merely on instinct starting midway in the fight, and what an instinct he had. He even sneaked in his face twice on the shoulders of the referee to wipe off the blood that continually blocked his vision.

Almost from the third round on, Barrios was fighting with one good eye.

What a courageous fighter. I've never seen one so brave for quite some time now. Said sports buff Arnold Arandilla: "No doubt Freitas was the star of the fight, but Barrios was the heart of the fight."

Before the fight, Freitas had no moniker unlike Barrios, who was called "La Hiena" (The Hyena) because of his loud, hearty laugh. After the fight, there was not even a limp smile from Barrios; his eyes looked soulful, sad as an owl's. Now if you start calling Freitas "The Finesse," I have no complaint.

Surely, the Brazilian world champion is presently the Pele of boxing's junior lightweight division.

Ginebra downs Chinese Taipei

GAME TODAY
6 p.m.—Chinese Taipei vs Air21-RP Youth

BARANGAY Ginebra drew power from import Ricky Price to clobber Mail & More-Chinese Taipei, 78-61, Sunday night in the continuation of the RP-Taiwan Goodwill Series at the Ynares Gym in Antipolo City.

The 6-foot-6 Price, who arrived early to familiarize himself with the Gin Kings' system, scored 24 points and ruled the boards as the popular PBA team waylaid the Taiwanese.

Price, a former McDonalds Slam Dunk champion who had seen action in France, Netherlands, Slovenia and the Continental Basketball Association, combined with Eric Menk in wreaking havoc inside the paint as the Gin Kings took the half, 49-38, and were never threatened.

Air 21 chair Bert Lina, who made the ceremonial toss and was accompanied by his wife Sylvia, was pleased at the huge fans turnout despite the limited time to announce the game.

Chinese Taipei takes on the Air21-RP Youth Team, which is managed by Air21 president Lito Alvarez and coached by Johnny Tam, at 6 p.m. today at the Marikina Sports Complex.

Taiwan will also play Purefoods, Shell and RP Cebuana Lhuillier in the series organized by Air21 under the auspices of the Basketball Association of the Philippines. *Roy Luarca*

SPORTSWATCH

Scandal rocks Games

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—The first positive doping test emerged at the 2003 Pan American Games, stealing the spotlight from men's tennis gold medalist Fernando Meligeni of Brazil. Letitia Vriesde of Suriname, the women's 800 meter winner and a former Olympian, was stripped of her gold medal after testing positive for excessive levels of caffeine, Pan American Sports Organization president Mario Vasquez Rana said Sunday. "She would have needed to drink five gallons of coffee for that level of caffeine to be found in her system," Vasquez Rana said. The scandal overshadowed the ninth day of competition and Meligeni's stirring come back after saving seven match points against former world No. 1 Marcelo Rios of Chile. Meligeni won 5-7, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5). In the women's final, Milagros Sequera of Venezuela beat Sarah Taylor of the United States 7-5, 4-6, 6-1. *AP*

U-Bix golfest slated

THE THIRD staging of the U-BIX-Riviera National Pro-Am, the only tournament in the country with a format involving teams of one professional and an amateur, will be held in November. U-Bix Corp. president Bert Bravo and Riviera Golf and Country Club president Commodore Danny Pizarro bared this yesterday after meeting with the organizing committee at Caffe Appassionato. The tournament is set Nov. 18-22 at Riviera's Langer course in Silang, Cavite. Kicking off the event is the traditional Celebrity Pro-am involving 50 teams on Nov. 18. The tournament proper is from Nov. 19 to 22. U-Bix Corp. and the Riviera Golf and Country Club are the title sponsors. Other organizing committee members who attended the meeting were Vice Admiral Luis Fernandez, Riviera general manager Lewis Rissman, Taby Tabaniag, Jake Ayson, Al Mendoza and Roger B. Flores.

Mid-Amateur tilt up

LIPA CITY—Defending champion Dave Hernandez heads the early entries who have registered for the second Active Group Mid-Amateur Open set Aug. 22-23 at the Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club. "It's a pleasure to be back," said Hernandez, who's carrying the colors of Calatagan as assistant general manager. "It's a pleasure playing Mount Malarayat again." He was referring to the nine-hole, all-weather championship courses Lobo, Malipunyo and Makaluot where Active Group chair Tony Turalba launched the event last year. Meet director Jack Imperial said that registration deadline is on Friday, Aug. 15. For inquiries, contact either Noemi Delfin at the Makati office with telephone numbers (02) 893-7024 to 28 locals 220 and 251 and fax no. 894-0155 or Tina Morales, Lipa office (043) 756-7932 and fax no. (043) 756-7933.

Mariners nip Yankees

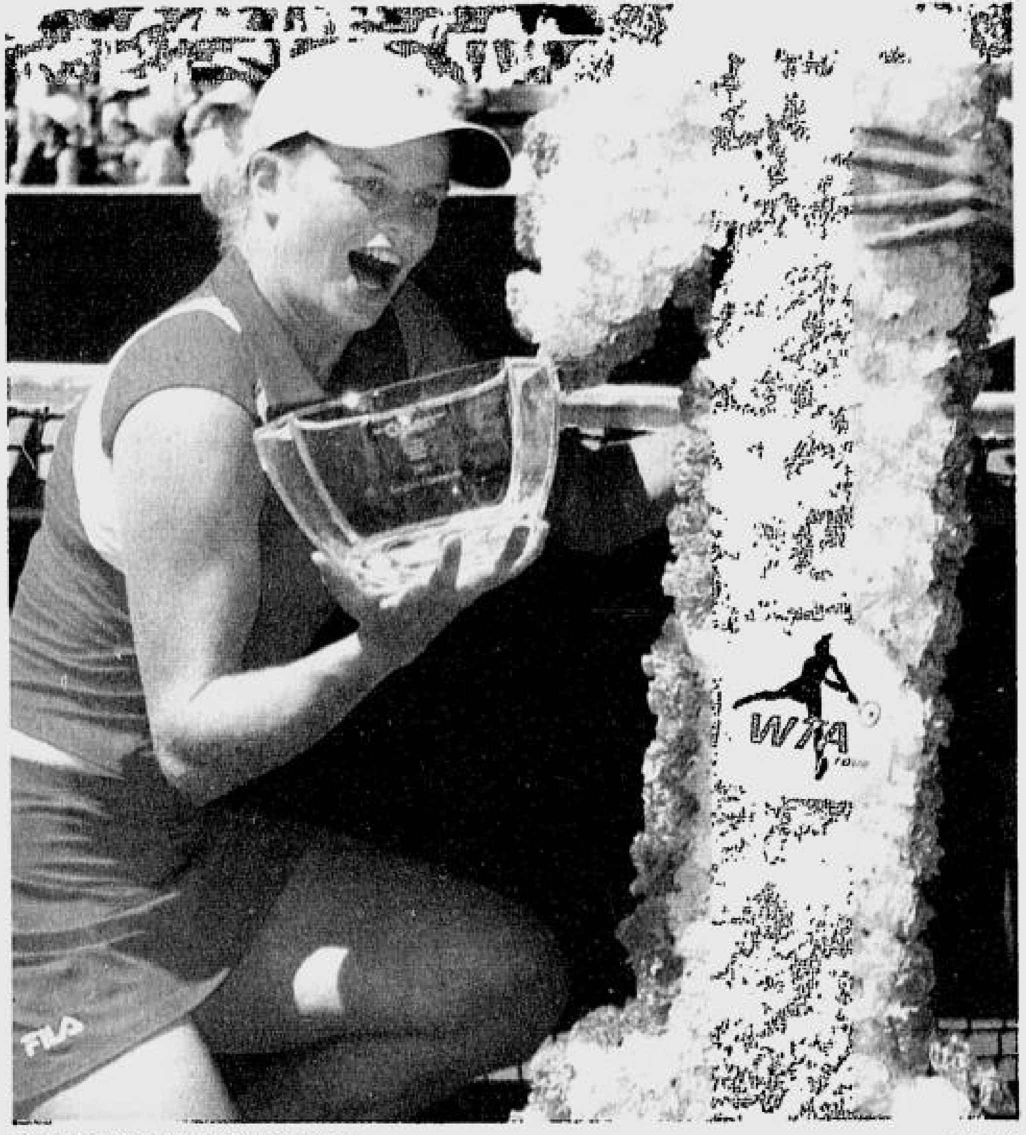
NEW YORK—Once the duel between fortysomethings Roger Clemens and Jamie Moyer dissolved, the Seattle Mariners walked off with a win. John Olerud drew a bases-loaded walk from Antonio Osuna that broke an eighth-inning tie and the Mariners roughed up New York's struggling relievers, beating the Yankees 8-6 Sunday. Bret Boone, Randy Winn and Ichiro Suzuki got the big hits after Seattle chased Clemens in a five-run seventh that made it 6-4. *AP*

'Spiderman' shines

MADISON, Illinois—Two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves ended a 20-race victory drought at the St. Louis 250 on Sunday, as Brazilian drivers took all three podium places. Tony Kanaan and this year's Indy 500 winner Gil de Ferran finished second and third. Castroneves, known as "Spiderman" for his fence climbing victory celebrations started from pole position and led for a total race high 96 laps in the 200 lap, 250 mile race. *AP*

SERENA BUMPED OFF

Clijsters claims No. 1 spot



CLIJSTERS: Unforgettable day REUTERS

CARSON, California—Her mind was racing. Her cell phone was ringing. And in 95-degree (35-Celsius) heat, Kim Clijsters had goosebumps.

Clijsters became the new No. 1 in women's tennis Sunday, outlasting Lindsay Davenport, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 to win the JP Morgan Chase Open for her tour-high sixth title of the year.

"This is a day I'll never forget," she said, smiling.

While talking about being No. 1, Clijsters still hadn't come to grips with her status.

"Oh, it sounds funny saying that," she said, giggling.

Clijsters takes over the top spot from the injured Serena Williams, who will trail by less than 45 points when the WTA Tour rankings come out Monday.

"It's a feeling I cannot really describe," Clijsters said. "On the court, I had all these butterflies in my stomach and goosebumps. There were so many things going through my mind."

Clijsters, who moves up from No. 2, is the first Belgian and the 12th woman to be No. 1 since the rankings began in 1975.

"She's got a lot of game," Davenport said. "I think she can get better. She hits the ball hard and she plays offense and defense extremely well."

Clijsters is also the only player to be No. 1 without first winning a Grand Slam title, although she will be among the favorites to win the US Open, which begins Aug. 25.

"It's something that always seems so far away, and it is always something that you work for," Clijsters said, referring to being No. 1. "It makes you more motivated and makes you train harder." *AP*

RODDICK REUTERS

Roddick prevails

MONTREAL—Andy Roddick captured the biggest title of his career with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Argentine David Nalbandian in the rain-interrupted final of the Montreal Masters on Sunday.

The sixth seeded American cruised to his fourth tournament victory of the season and first Masters crown with a fair amount of assistance from his unseeded opponent, who committed 27 unforced errors. *AP*

Kobe on teammates' minds

NEW YORK—The US basketball squad charged with earning the game's powerhouse nation a spot in the Athens Olympics practiced together for the first time Sunday, with absent NBA All-Star Kobe Bryant on their minds.

Bryant cited injury in withdrawing from the 12-player squad for the qualifying tournament of the Americas, but he is also facing felony sexual assault charges that have left his plans for the coming NBA season as well as next year's Games in limbo.

Bryant was replaced in the qualifying squad by the Toronto Raptors' Vince Carter.

Allen Iverson, the controversial, but highly talented Philadelphia 76ers guard, said he felt for Bryant, adding: "We'd love to have Kobe on the team. But he has an injury and can't play."

The US squad—Iverson, Carter, Jason Kidd, Tracy McGrady, Jermaine O'Neal, Nick Collison, Mike Bibby, Karl Malone, Ray Allen, Tim Duncan, Elton Brand and Richard Jefferson—will have eight practice sessions plus an exhibition game against Puerto Rico at Madison Square Garden on Friday before competing in the Fiba Americas Olympic Qualifying Tournament in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from Aug. 20 to 31. *AFP*

Pampanga-Taguig series starts Aug. 17

THE PAMPANGA Bulls hope to keep a winning tradition when they clash with Forward Taguig in a best-of-three semifinal series starting Aug. 17 in the 2003 NBL (National Basketball League) 1st national championship at the New Cebu Coliseum in Cebu City.

Pampanga has a penchant for winning the first edition of tournaments it joins. The Pampangueños bagged the 2st Philippine National Games basketball crown in 1995. Three years later, they won the first Metropolitan Basketball Association national championship.

Coach Alan Trinidad hopes to continue this trend with the all-out support of Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda. Pampanga and Forward Taguig finished with identical 6-6 slates in the eliminations and split their first two games.

The NBL is sponsored by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, PCSO, Panasonic, Burlington, Cebu Ferries, SuperCat, Gatorade, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, BJ Star Logistics, The Freeman, Sinners and Saints, Jaguar KTV and Molten Basketballs and telecast over IBC 13 through the facilities of Silverstar Communications Inc. *Roy Luarca*

Dunk artists arriving today

PARIS-based slam dunk artists Slam Nation arrives in the country today to kick off a six-day swing that will culminate in a live performance during the Nike Battleground Asia National Finals at the Carousel Court of the Festival Supermall on Sunday, Aug. 17.

Slam Nation, a group of seven daredevil dunkers, will arrive from Hong Kong at 11:45 p.m. and will be met at the airport by Nike Philippines marketing manager Colo Ventosa and Sports marketing manager Auty Villarama.

Composed of 5-foot-11 Stevel Lobel of France, 5-foot-11 Kadour Ziana of Algeria, 6-foot-2 Joachim Ekanga Ehawa of Cameroon, 6-foot-2 Abdoulaye Desire Bamba of Ivory Coast, 6-foot-3 Serge Moularc of Ivory Coast, 6-foot-3 Kevin Lescot of France and 6-foot-6 Dejan Ristic of Serbia, Slam Nation is known worldwide for its repertoire of gravity-defying slams.

Last Hazm finishes first in Juvenile Colts Stakes

Esguerra galloper stuns fancied Don Paolo at Santa Ana

By Edwin Villanueva

LAST Hazm (7), with Jeffril Zarate aboard, edging Don Paolo, handled by Pat Dilema, at the wire. Owned by Hermie Esguerra (inset), Last Hazm captured the P600,000 top prize.

HE MAY be the Last Hazm but he made it first to the wire in the first leg of the Juvenile Colts Stakes last Sunday at the Santa Ana Park.

The Hazm-Isleworth progeny caught heavy favorite Don Paolo in the dwindling strides to the payoff line to win by a head, thanks to the excellent handling of star jockey Jeffril Zarate.

"*Isinunod ko agad kay* Don Paolo *para di siya makabuo ng ayre. Nakuha sa tiyaga* (I ranged him right behind Don Paolo so he won't set a pace to his liking. My patience paid off)," said Zarate, describing his strategy atop the Hermie Esguerra galloper.

Last Hazm, the last of the Hazm-sired runners acquired by Esguerra, has yet to win in the Maiden division but still got ample backing as second choice behind the highly-fancied Don Paolo.

Following instructions by Esguerra and trainer Nestor Manalang, Zarate wheeled Last Hazm close behind Don Paolo at the first bend and pursued the latter hotly to make the 1,450-mer race a two-horse affair.

Don Paolo (Medium Cool-Vice Royal) was still two lengths up on Last Hazm when they bounded the last turn but the latter came up with a final burst of energy under Zarate's right-hand whipping to eventually beat Pat Dilema's mount amid the crowd's thunderous roar.

"*Matapang na kabayo* (A brave horse)," said Esguerra after Last Hazm netted his powerhouse stable its sixth victory in the past racing weekend.

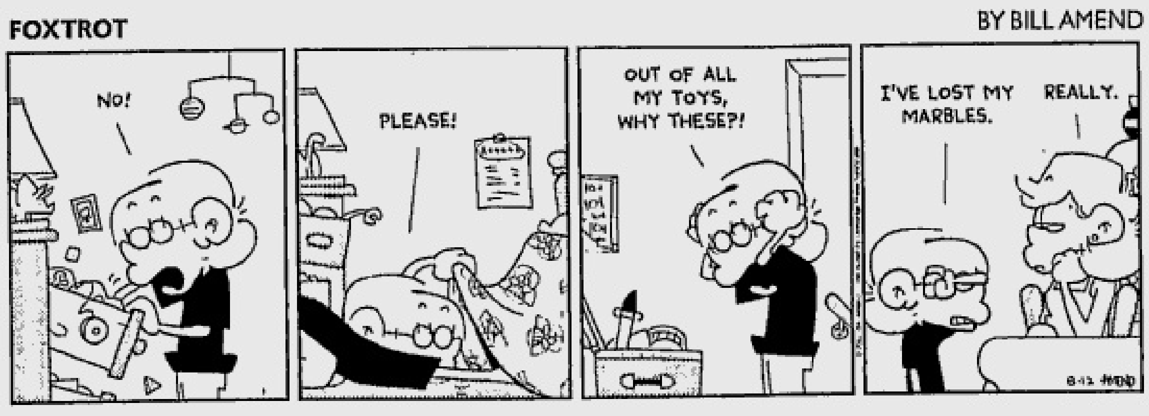
The Sandy Javier-bred Last Hazm, who covered the race in 1:31.6 (15-24.5-23.5-28.5), bagged P600,000, while Don Paolo settled for P225,000. Vindicated was third followed by Sir Brendan Jean while Nothing to Declare, Last Hazm's coupled bet, arrived fifth followed by Calvin's Magic.

Earlier, Gorgeous Sand rallied from dead last to shock the field in the first leg of the Juvenile Fillies contest.

A daughter of Sandpit out of Miss Gorgeous, Gorgeous Sand was guided to victory also worth P600,000 by Jonathan Hernandez. Winning time over the same distance was 1:33 (15-24.5-24-29).

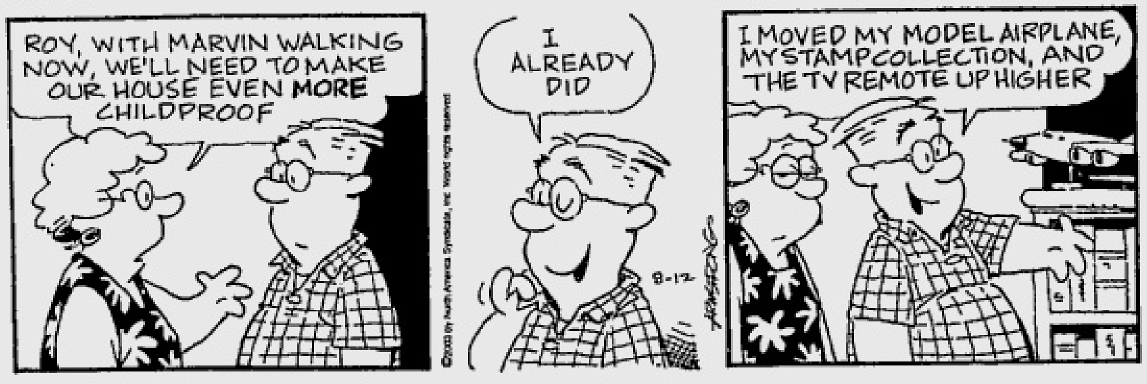
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


NO!
PLEASE!
OUT OF ALL MY TOYS, WHY THESE?!
I'VE LOST MY MARBLES.
REALLY.
8-12 AMEND

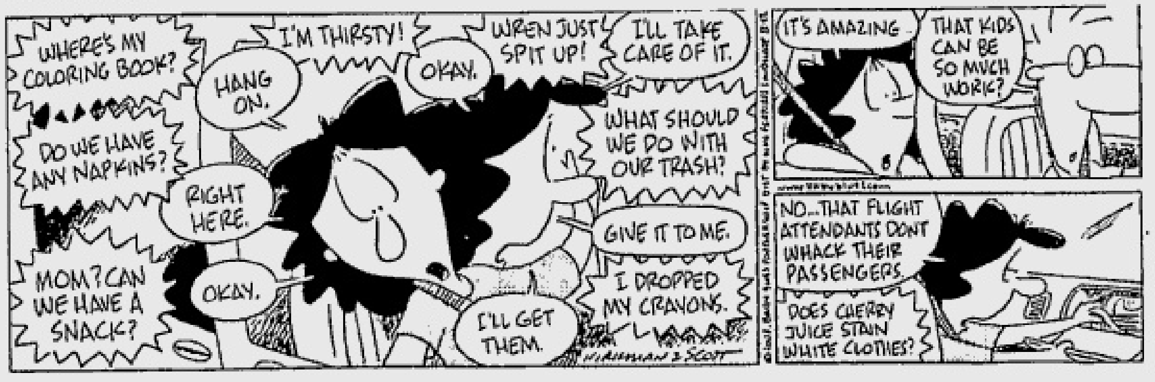
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


ROY, WITH MARVIN WALKING NOW, WE'LL NEED TO MAKE OUR HOUSE EVEN MORE CHILDPROOF
I ALREADY DID
I MOVED MY MODEL AIRPLANE, MY STAMP COLLECTION, AND THE TV REMOTE UP HIGHER
8-12
ARMSTRONG

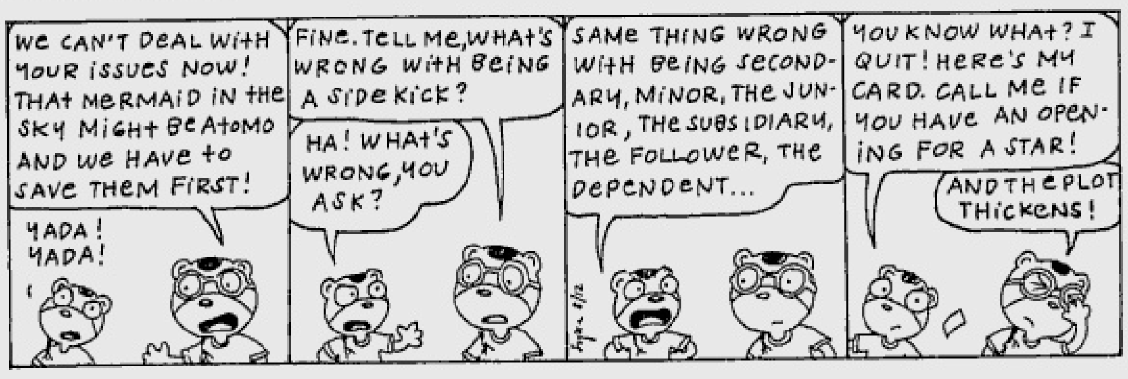
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHERE'S MY COLORING BOOK?
HANG ON.
I'M THIRSTY!
OKAY.
WREN JUST SPIT UP!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
DO WE HAVE ANY NAPKINS?
RIGHT HERE.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH OUR TRASH?
GIVE IT TO ME.
MOM? CAN WE HAVE A SNACK?
OKAY.
I'LL GET THEM.
I DROPPED MY CRAYONS.
IT'S AMAZING...
THAT KIDS CAN BE SO MUCH WORK?
NO... THAT FLIGHT ATTENDANTS DON'T WHACK THEIR PASSENGERS.
DOES CHERRY JUICE STAIN WHITE CLOTHES?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WE CAN'T DEAL WITH YOUR ISSUES NOW! THAT MERMAID IN THE SKY MIGHT BE ATOMO AND WE HAVE TO SAVE THEM FIRST!
YADA! YADA!
FINE. TELL ME, WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING A SIDEKICK?
HA! WHAT'S WRONG, YOU ASK?
SAME THING WRONG WITH BEING SECONDARY, MINOR, THE JUNIOR, THE SUBSIDIARY, THE FOLLOWER, THE DEPENDENT...
YOU KNOW WHAT? I QUIT! HERE'S MY CARD. CALL ME IF YOU HAVE AN OPENING FOR A STAR!
AND THE PLOT THICKENS!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You value tradition. Although flamboyant and witty, you are essentially serious and rather wise. You see the essence of things. You often live at a busy pace. You love to blaze new trails and make technological improvements in your field. You can expect more solitude this year to study and learn something important.
Birthdate of: Mary Roberts Rinehart, writer; William Goldman, writer; Bruce Greenwood, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're ready to work very hard now for what you want. And what you want is to make solid, long-range plans for your home and family. You now need to secure your base.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Friends are willing to help you achieve something now. By all means, accept their help. Whatever you do will last for a long time, and it will benefit you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ambition knows no bounds today! You are prepared to work long and hard for what you want. Your efforts will definitely boost your income in the future.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Don't hesitate to make serious plans about travel or dealing with foreign countries. Similarly, you can trust your strategy about higher education, legal matters and publishing.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You are in the fortunate position of receiving help from others now. Their resources and assistance (money, advice or practical help) will benefit you for a long time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good time to organize the efforts of others to tackle a big job. People are ready to cooperate with you now. By all means, capitalize on this!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): At work your goals might be modest, but they will be carefully defined. You find it easy to keep plugging away at a regular pace today to achieve whatever you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your physical energy is strong today! Anything connected with professional or amateur sports will go well, because you're giving it everything you've got.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day to make major improvements at home. Others might help you in this matter. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance, whether it is practical or financial.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): No matter what happens today, you have the energy and drive to cope with it quite skillfully. You are dedicated, and you have a single-minded perseverance. Go to it!

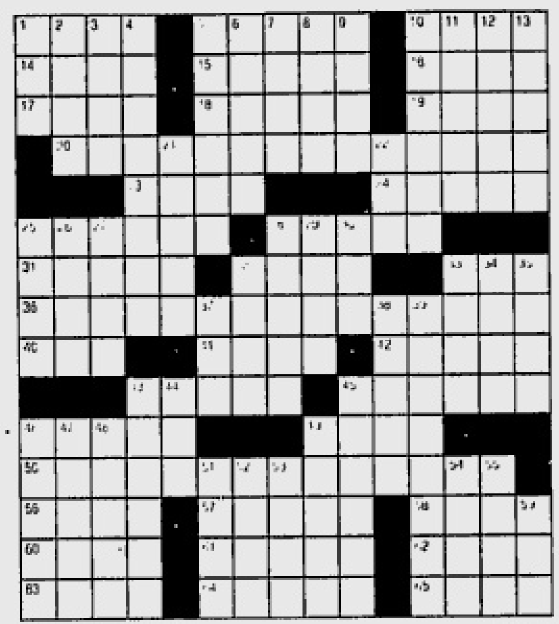
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): If you purchase something today, you will have it for a long time. Furthermore, it will be of practical use to you. Your thinking is very long-term now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You definitely have the patience and willingness to do difficult tasks today. Use this energy to get things done. Your accomplishments will give you great satisfaction.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Singe
5 Dance movements
10 Landing place
14 Lightly cooked
15 Mischievous sprite
16 Loafing
17 Bright thought
18 Make more cheerful
19 Viewed
20 Rang a bell
23 Fashion
24 Sri ___
25 Provides with funding
28 Somewhat daily
31 Cad
32 Ultimatum ender
33 Gangster's heater
36 Repressed
40 Even one
41 Roman god of war
42 Bear and Berra
43 Tiny bit of bread
45 Build a levee
46 Ore analysis
49 Kissers
50 Sitcom sweetener
56 Classy
57 Makeshift
58 Milky gem
60 Astronaut Sally
61 Bird with fine plumage
62 Splitsville
63 Victim of Cain
64 Dog-tired
65 Safecracker

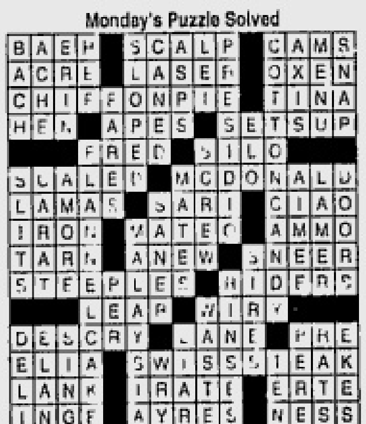
DOWN
1 Dernier ___
2 Muslim pilgrimage
3 Square measurement
4 One all the way in the back
5 Goes over the limit
6 Spanish diacritical mark
7 Pop quiz
8 Empathic emotion
9 Appear to be
10 Fill with apprehension
11 Nickel add-on?
12 Counter person
13 East African republic
21 Spur wheel
22 Shade tree
25 "Able was I ere I saw ___"
26 Showdown time?
27 Obligation
28 Dust-jacket information
29 Venomous vipers
30 Floral wreath
32 Dutch cheese
33 Baltic capital
34 Norse god
35 Cubicle furniture
37 Ostrichlike bird
38 Maiden of myths
39 Sad tale
43 Call off
44 Sandwich bread
45 Fourscore
46 Capital of Ghana
47 Raj's title
48 Derisive
49 German handgun
51 Barrymore or Carey
52 Theater section
53 Saintly glow
54 Type of foil
55 Pealed
59 Ship's record



By Mark Moldowsky
Huntington, NY

8/12/03

Monday's Puzzle Solved



B	A	E	R	■	S	C	A	L	P	■	C	A	M	S
A	C	R	E	■	L	A	S	E	R	■	O	X	E	N
C	H	I	F	F	O	N	P	I	E	■	T	I	N	A
H	E	N	■	A	P	E	S	■	S	E	T	S	U	P
■	■	■	F	R	E	D	■	S	I	L	O	■	■	■
S	C	A	L	E	D	■	M	C	D	O	N	A	L	D
L	A	M	A	S	■	S	A	R	I	■	C	I	A	O
I	R	O	N	■	M	A	T	E	O	■	A	M	M	O
T	A	R	N	■	A	N	E	W	■	S	N	E	E	R
S	T	E	E	P	L	E	S	■	H	I	D	E	R	S
■	■	■	L	E	A	P	■	W	I	R	Y	■	■	■
D	E	S	C	R	Y	■	L	A	N	E	■	P	R	E
E	L	I	A	■	S	W	I	S	S	S	T	E	A	K
L	A	N	K	■	I	R	A	T	E	■	E	R	T	E
I	N	G	E	■	A	Y	R	E	S	■	N	E	S	S

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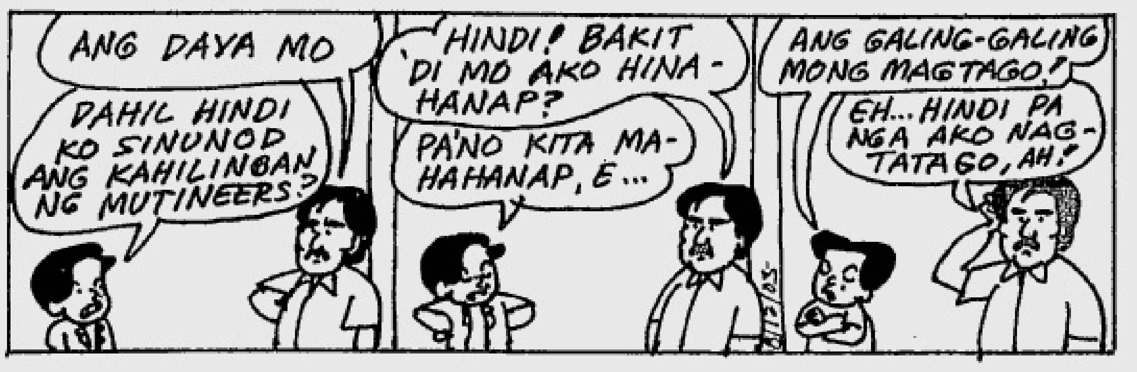
8/12/03

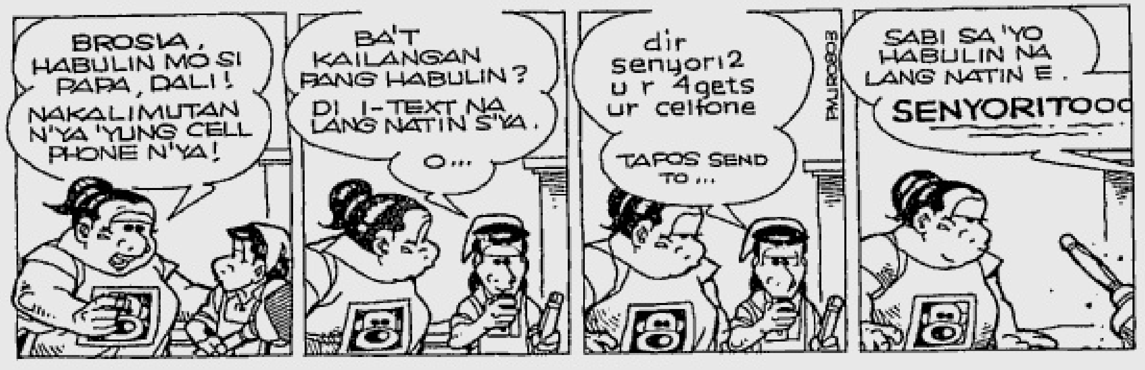
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAYA MO
DAHIL HINDI KO SINUNOD ANG KAHILINGAN NG MUTINEERS?
HINDI! BAKIT 'DI MO AKO HINAHANAP?
PA'NO KITA MAHAHANAP, E...
ANG GALING-GALING MONG MAGTAGO!
EH... HINDI PA NGA AKO NAGTATAGO, AH!

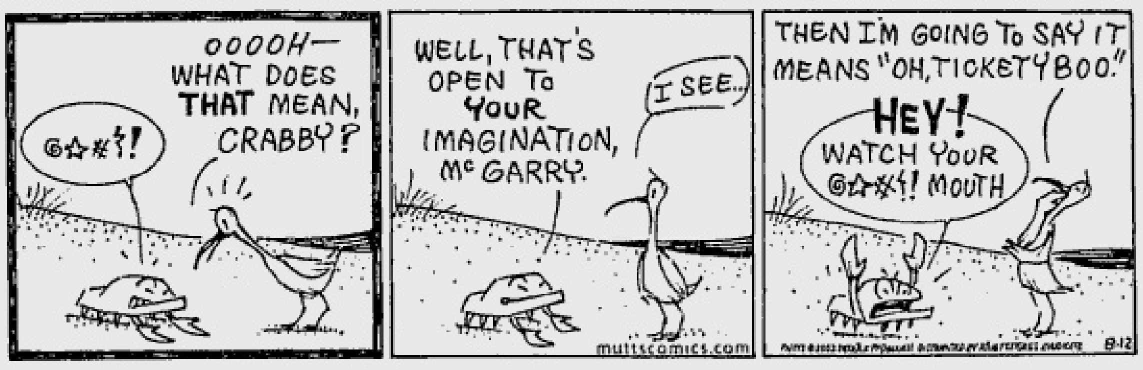
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BROSIA, HABULIN MO SI PAPA, DALI!
NAKALIMUTAN N'YA 'YUNG CELL PHONE N'YA!
BA'T KAILANGAN PANG HABULIN?
DI I-TEXT NA LANG NATIN S'YA.
O...
dir senyori2 u r 4gets ur celfone
TAPOS SEND TO...
SABI SA 'YO HABULIN NA LANG NATIN E.
SENYORITOOO

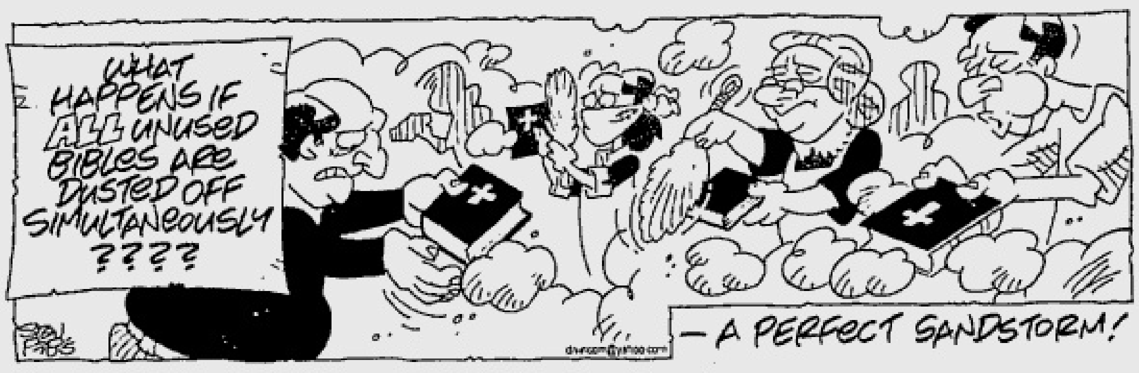
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


@☆#!!
OOOOH— WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, CRABBY?
WELL, THAT'S OPEN TO YOUR IMAGINATION, McGARRY.
I SEE..
THEN I'M GOING TO SAY IT MEANS "OH, TICKETYBOO."
HEY! WATCH YOUR @☆#!! MOUTH
muttscomics.com
8-12

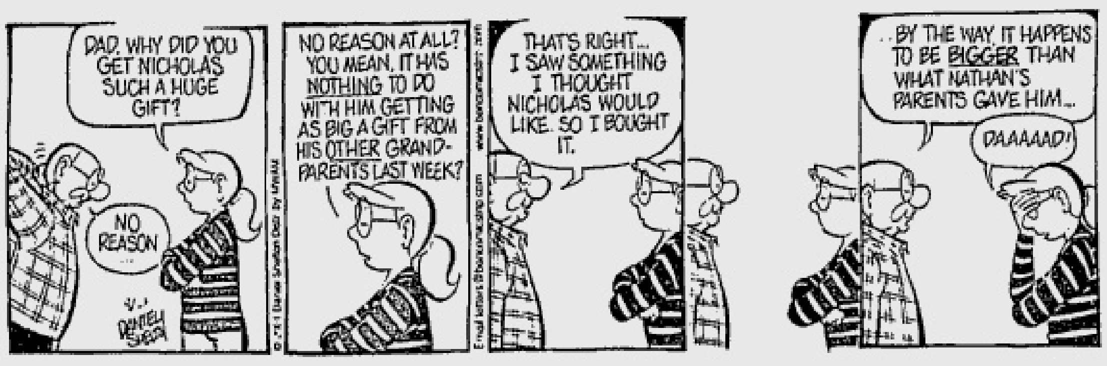
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHAT HAPPENS IF ALL UNUSED BIBLES ARE DUSTED OFF SIMULTANEOUSLY ????
— A PERFECT SANDSTORM!

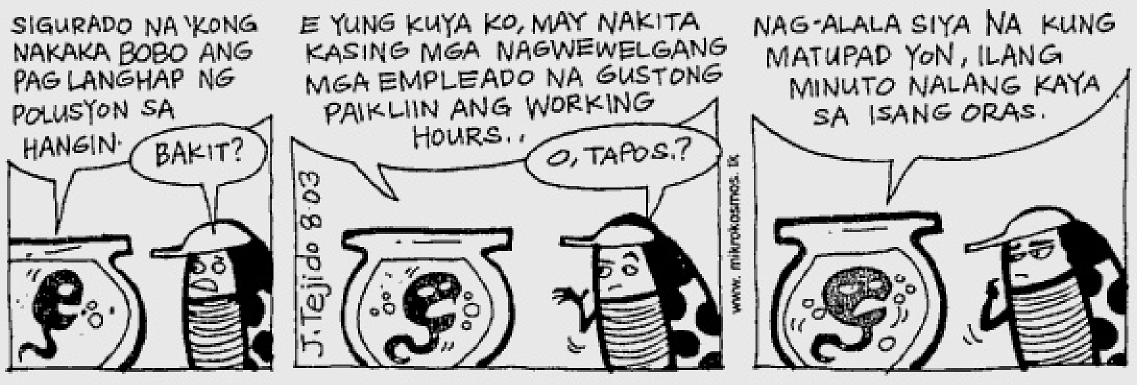
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DAD, WHY DID YOU GET NICHOLAS SUCH A HUGE GIFT?
NO REASON...
NO REASON AT ALL? YOU MEAN, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM GETTING AS BIG A GIFT FROM HIS OTHER GRANDPARENTS LAST WEEK?
THAT'S RIGHT... I SAW SOMETHING I THOUGHT NICHOLAS WOULD LIKE. SO I BOUGHT IT.
...BY THE WAY, IT HAPPENS TO BE BIGGER THAN WHAT NATHAN'S PARENTS GAVE HIM...
DAAAAAD!

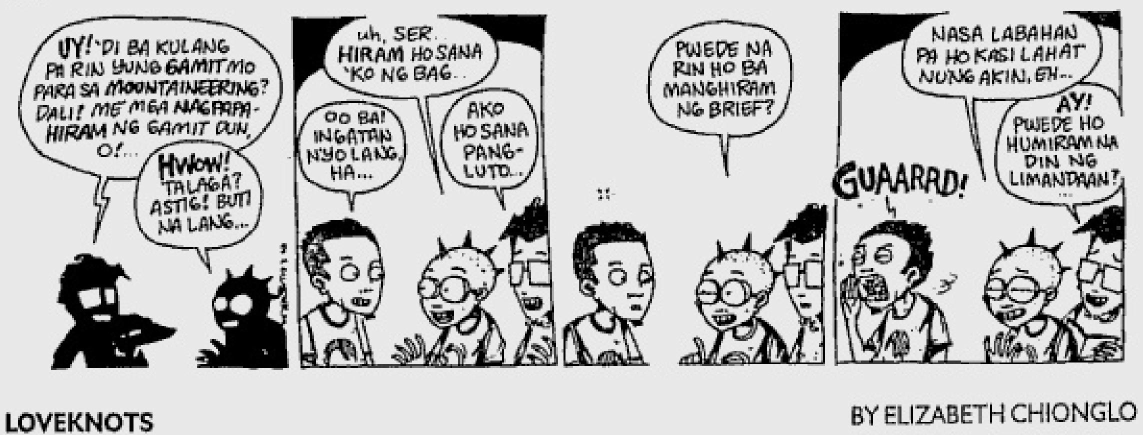
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SIGURADO NA 'KONG NAKAKA BOBO ANG PAG LANGHAP NG POLUSYON SA HANGIN.
BAKIT?
E YUNG KUYA KO, MAY NAKITA KASING MGA NAGWEWELGANG MGA EMPLEADO NA GUSTONG PAIKLIIN ANG WORKING HOURS..
O, TAPOS.?
NAG-ALALA SIYA NA KUNG MATUPAD YON, ILANG MINUTO NALANG KAYA SA ISANG ORAS.
J. Tejido 8.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

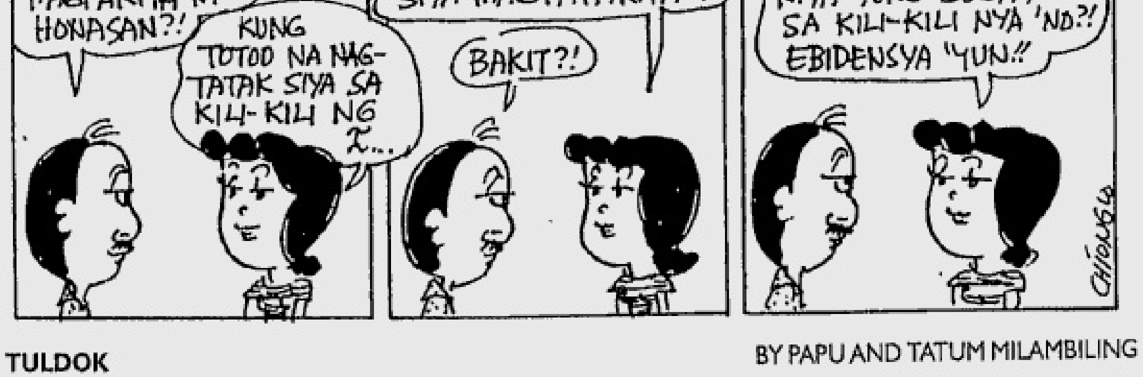
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY! 'DI BA KULANG PA RIN YUNG GAMIT MO PARA SA MOUNTAINEERING? DALI! ME' MGA NAGPAPA-HIRAM NG GAMIT DUN, O!...
HWOW! TALAGA? ASTIG! BUTI NA LANG...
uh, SER. HIRAM HO SANA 'KO NG BAG..
OO BA! INGATAN NYO LANG, HA...
AKO HO SANA PANG-LUTO..
PWEDE NA RIN HO BA MANGHIRAM NG BRIEF?
NASA LABAHAN PA HO KASI LAHAT NUNG AKIN, EH..
GUAARRD!
AY! PWEDE HO HUMIRAM NA DIN NG LIMANDAAN?

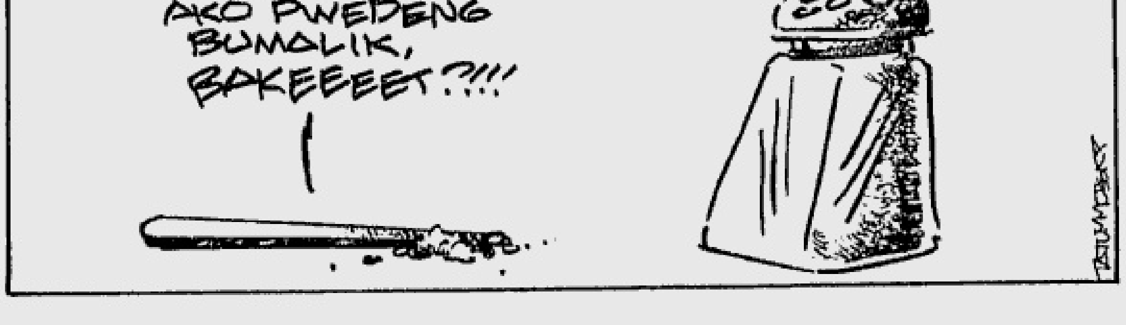
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BAKIT KAYA AYAW MAGPAKITA NI HONASAN?!
KUNG TOTOO NA NAGTATAK SIYA SA KILI-KILI NG 2...
TALAGANG HINDI MUNA SIYA MAGPAPAKITA!!!
BAKIT?!
PAHIHILUMIN MUNA NIYA YUNG SUGAT SA KILI-KILI NYA 'NO?! EBIDENSYA 'YUN!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT HINDI AKO PWEDENG BUMALIK, BAKEEEET?!!!

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 NAKED WEAPON	1 FINDING NEMO	ArtFilm 1 CINEMANILA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE ITALIAN JOB 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00 11:20	THX 1 THE ITALIAN JOB
2 FINDING NEMO	2 THE IN-LAWS	2 CINEMANILA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 BAD BOYS II 12:20 3:00	2 FINDING NEMO
3 THE ITALIAN JOB	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 BAD BOYS 2 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30	APO HIKING SOCIETY & HOTDOG -BACK2BACK Aug 20 - 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FINDING NEMO 12:50 2:55 5:00 7:05 9:10 11:15	3 BAD BOYS II
4 BAD BOYS II	4 MY LITTLE EYE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE IN-LAWS 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 11:30	4 THE IN-LAWS
	5 HOLES		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CINEMANILA	5 TOMB RAIDER 2
	6 THE ITALIAN JOB			
	7 TOMB RAIDER 2			

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6 (DOLBY/SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) BULLET PROOF MONK
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9 DARK WATER
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3 SNAKE LADY
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1
2 BAD BOYS-2
3
4

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1 (SDDS) NAKED WEAPON
4 RESERVE
5 THE IN LAWS
6 BULLET PROOF MONK
7 (DTS) FINDING NEMO
8 (SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
9 (DOLBY) ITALIAN JOB

Gotesco Caloocan
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2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 MOTEL
2 FINDING NEMO
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 BULLET PROOF MONK
6 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
7 (DTS) NAKED WEAPON
8 SNAKE LADY
9 TOMB RAIDER -2

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1 FINDING NEMO
2 (SDDS) BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 (DTS) BAD BOYS-2
4 (DOLBY) ITALIAN JOB
5 MOTEL

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 (DTS) ITALIAN JOB
4 MOTEL
5 (SDDS) NAKED WEAPON

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 BAD BOYS-2

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 RESERVE

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(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 TOMB RAIDER-2
3 MOTEL
4 FINDING NEMO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 MOTEL
5 NAKED WEAPON

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 ; 879.2029

1 MOTEL
2 WISH MASTER

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Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 MOTEL
2 SNAKE LADY
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BULLET PROOF MONK
4 (SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
5 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2
6 THE IN LAWS
7 NAKED WEAPON

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 FINDING NEMO
2 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2
3 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
4 DUMB & DUMBERER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 FINDING NEMO
2 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
3 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2
4 DUMB & DUMBERER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 IMPOSTOR
2 TOMB RADER-2
3 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 IMPOSTOR
3 TERMINATOR-3
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER-2
2 (DTS) LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
2 WILD BUTTERFLY
3 (DTS) SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4 FINDING NEMO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
2 SEX & ZEN-2
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
5 FINDING NEMO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
3

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
3 UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER-2
4 BULLET PROF MONK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2 TOMB RAIDER-2
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2 BULLET PROF MONK
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
3 FINDING NEMO
4 DANCER IN THE DARK

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1 IMPOSTOR
2 PIGLET THE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
4 FINDING NEMO

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Filinvest - Alabang
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1 NAKED WEAPON
2 FINDING NEMO
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 MOTEL
8 THE IN LAWS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 MOTEL
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 NAKED WEAPON
7 FINDING NEMO
8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10 THE IN-LAWS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 DARK WATER
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 MOTEL
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 ITALIAN JOB
8 FINDING NEMO
9 NAKED WEAPON
10 LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
11 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
12 THE IN-LAWS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 FINDING NEMO
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 BAD BOYS 2
7 MOTEL
8 SNAKE LADY
9 DARK WATER
10 NAKED WEAPON
11 MY LITTLE EYE
12 THE IN-LAWS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 FINDING NEMO
6 HOLES
7 MY LITTLE EYE
8 NAKED WEAPON
9 IN-LAWS
10 BULLETPROOF MONK
11 DARK WATER
12 MOTEL

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 MY LITTLE EYE
3 MOTEL
4 THE IN-LAWS
5 FINDING NEMO
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 BAD BOYS 2
8 ITALIAN JOB

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 NAKED WEAPON
2 BULLETPROOF MONK
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 FINDING NEMO
5 THE IN-LAWS
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 BAD BOYS 2
9 DARK WATER
10 MOTEL

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 FINDING NEMO
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 DUMB & DUMBERER
6 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
7 IMPOSTOR
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 DEATH WATCH
2 RESERVED
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 RESERVED
8 MASAMANG UGAT

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 FINDING NEMO
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
5 IMPOSTOR
6 BAD BOYS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 FINDING NEMO
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 ITALIAN JOB

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 MOTEL
4 BULLETPROOF MONK

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 DEATH WATCH
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 DUMB & DUMBERER
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1 FINDING NEMO
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 ITALIAN JOB
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:48 END

2 IN-LAWS
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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THX /All Digital

1 BAD BOYS 2 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 THX
2 THE IN-LAWS 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00
3 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
4 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
5 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
6 FINDING NEMO 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
7 SNAKE LADY 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
8 MY LITTLE EYE 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
9 HOLES 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
10 SNAKE LADY 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 1 level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am - 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536-717809 TO 13

1 FINDING NEMO - 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40
2 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
3 THE IN LAWS 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40
4 MY LITTLE EYE 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 NAKED WEAPON 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40
6 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
7 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8280

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 TOMB RAIDER 2
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 FINDING NEMO
6 NAKED WEAPON
7 THE IN-LAWS
8 SNAKE LADY

Novaliches
935-3229/31

1 TOMB RAIDER 2
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 SNAKE LADY
5 THE IN-LAWS
6 FINDING NEMO
7 MAGKAPATID/TUXEDO
8 NAKED WEAPON

Malabon
Citisquare
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288-2575

1 MOTEL
2 FINDING NEMO
3 NAKED WEAPON
4 TOMB RAIDER 2

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(045) 961-5270

1 FINDING NEMO
2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3 IMPOSTOR
4 WILD BUTTERFLY
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 TOMB RAIDER 2

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(046) 875-5858

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 THE IN-LAWS
3 FINDING NEMO
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 MOTEL

Sta. Rosa
Laguna
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1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 RING-0

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1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 TOMB RAIDER 2
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED
6 MASAMANG UGAT

Iloilo
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1 BAD BOYS 2
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 DEATHWATCH
6 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

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DID YOU KNOW...

The opening night last Friday of **Gary Valenciano's** "Gary V Hits Music Museum" series in Greenhills started around 9 p.m. and ended just beyond midnight. Among the celebrities in the audience were **Donita Rose** who gave Gary V's wife **Angeli** a hug in the middle of the show, *Kuya* **German Moreno**, who quietly slipped out near the end, and **Susan Roces**, who sat out front and stayed up to the very last number.

It's Nina . . .

From page A25

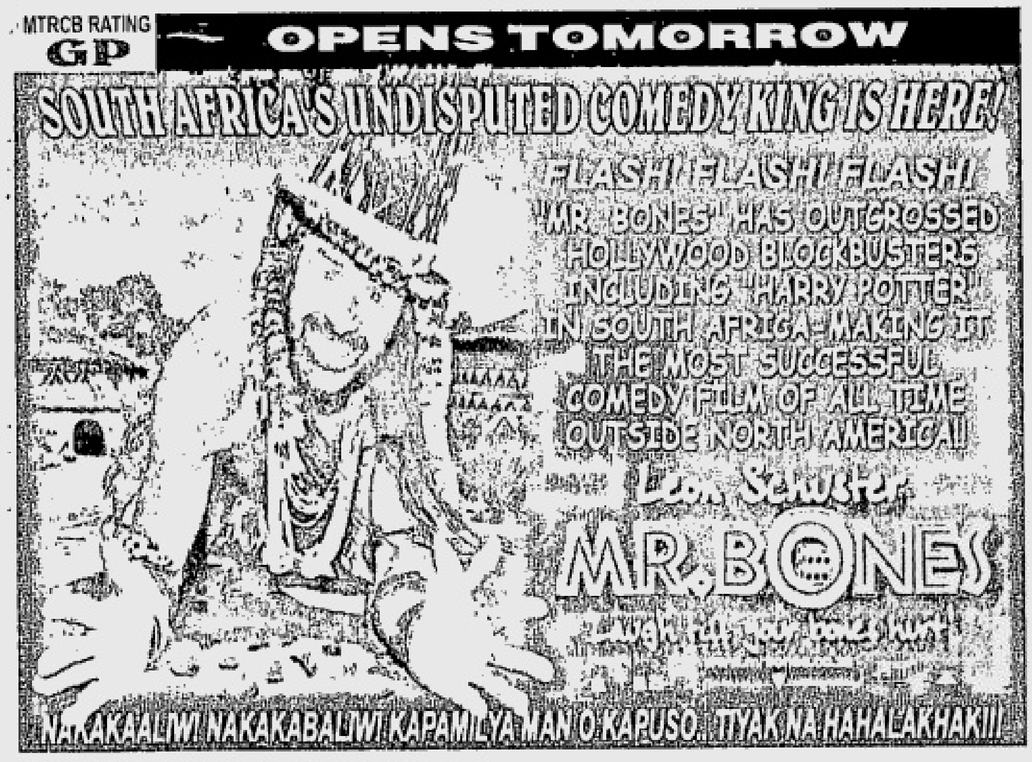
"Mr. Pure Energy."

Coming from a series of successful concerts in Guam and Tokyo, Japan, Gary now performs in "Gary V Hits Music Museum." The show brims with all-time hits that continue to move him, physically and spiritually. So Gary V fans will be treated to a medley of dance songs or ballads from the '60s to the new millennium.

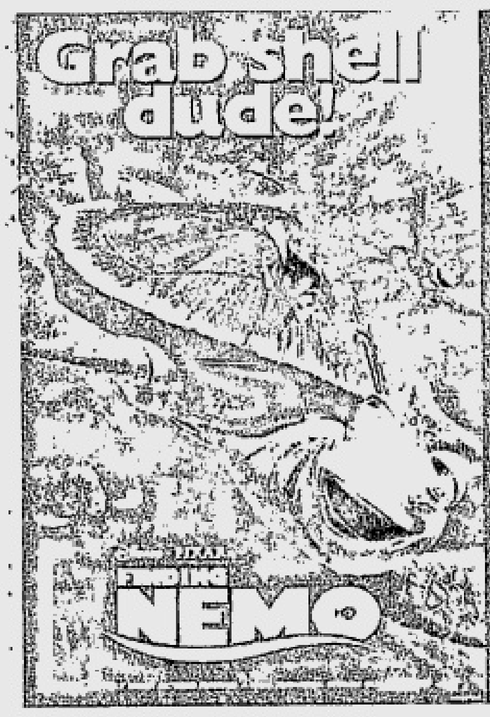
Tickets at P1,500, P1,200, P800 and P600 are available at major National Bookstores, Robinson's Department Stores Malate and Galleria, Tower Records Makati and Alabang, Music Museum and Ticketworld.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

MTRCB RATING GP
OPENS TOMORROW



SOUTH AFRICA'S UNDISPUTED COMEDY KING IS HERE!
FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!
"MR. BONES" HAS OUTGROSSED HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTERS INCLUDING "HARRY POTTER" IN SOUTH AFRICA-MAKING IT THE MOST SUCCESSFUL COMEDY FILM OF ALL TIME OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA!!
Leon Schuster
MR. BONES
NAKAKAALIW! NAKAKABALIW! KAPAMILYA MAN O KAPUSO. TIYAK NA HAHALAKHAK!!!



Grab shell dude!
FINDING NEMO

SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENINGS
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
TODAY
August 11 & 12

THEATRE MALL
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA		
1	BAD BOYS 2	12:05, 3:15, 6:20, 9:30 R13
2	THE IN-LAWS	11:45, 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:50 PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

AUG 15,16,22,23,29,30, 2003	GARY V. HITS MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM
AUG 19, 2003	MAYA LEE IN CONCERT	8:30PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

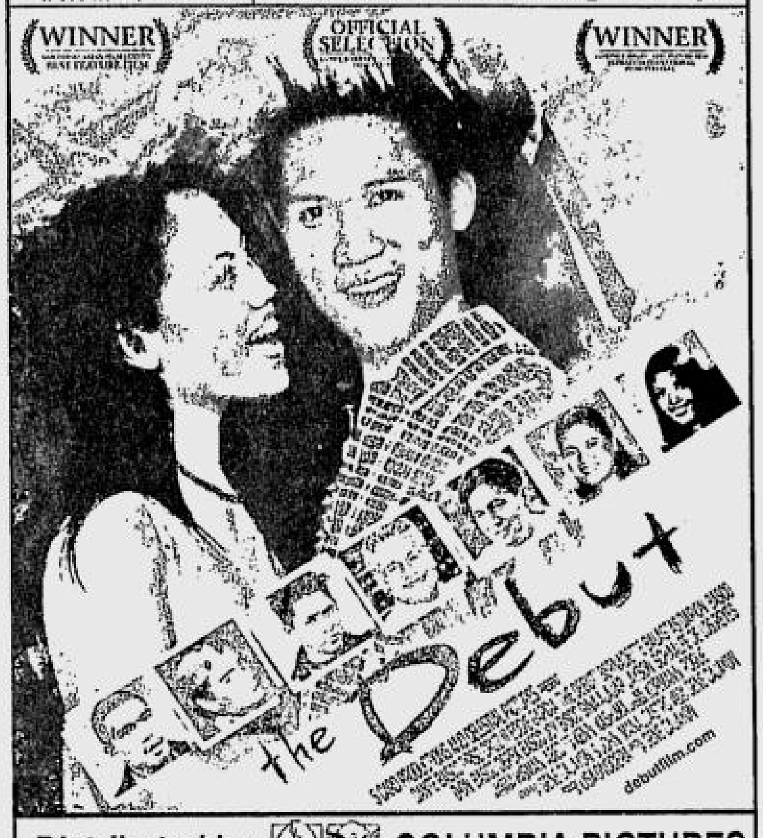
ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MOTEL
Ali 2	SNAKE LADY
Ali 3	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 4	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 5	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 6	IN-LAWS
Ali 7	NAKED WEAPON

ARANETA COLISEUM

AUG 16	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 17	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 24	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 28	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 30	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
SEPT 4	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

OPENS TOMORROW !
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 Strictly for 13 years of age and up



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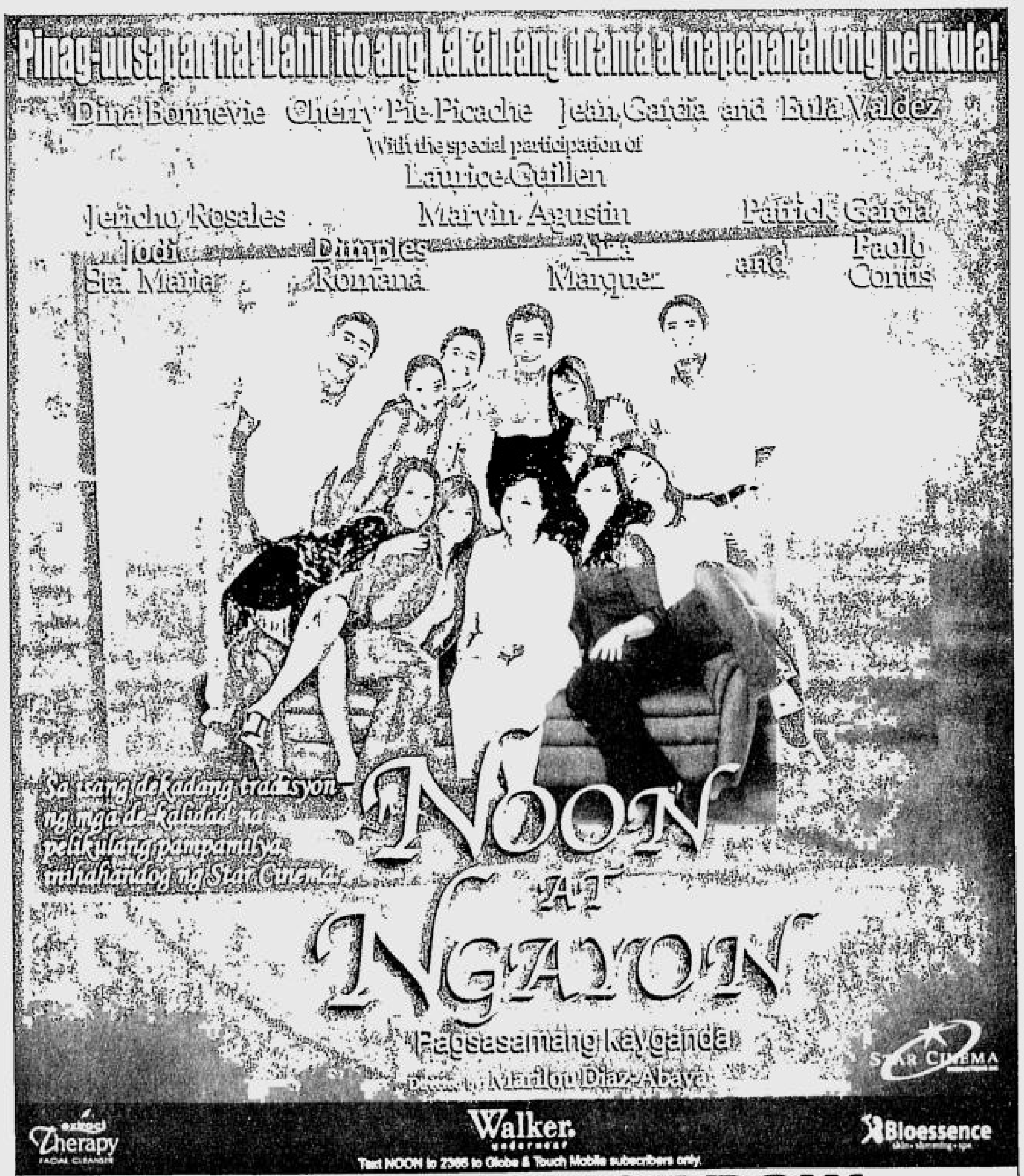

Pinag-uusapan na! Dahil ito ang kakaibang drama at napapanahong pelikula!
Dina Bonnevie Cherry Pie Picache Jean Garcia and Eula Valdez
With the special participation of
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Jericho Rosales
Jodi Sta. Maria
Dimples Romana
Marvin Agustin
Alessandra Marquez
Patrick Garcia
and
Paolo Contis
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Pagsasamang kayganda
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OPENS TOMORROW

SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENINGS
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GLORIETTA 1 & 4
GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
TODAY
AUG. 11 (Mon.) & 12 (Tue.)
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
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THE ITALIAN JOB

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
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THE POWER OF SEVEN BECOME A LEAGUE OF ONE
SEAN CONNERY
THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Gwyneth Paltrow goes off the beaten track

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN **Gwyneth Paltrow** first established herself as a movie star, industry observers were impressed and described her as the current film generation's **Grace Kelly**.

True, Gwyneth possessed Grace's cool, blonde, classy beauty, but she quickly proved that she was more versatile than Princess Grace had ever been given a chance to be during her halcyon days in Hollywood.

The intrepid performer that she is, Gwyneth soon tired of playing beautiful, sophisticated blondes in dramas and thrillers, and yearned to give romantic comedy a go. She succeeded at most everything she did, and soon chalked up some enviable movie credits and awards.

She won an Oscar for Best Actress for her remarkable performance as a girl who disguises herself as a boy in "Shakespeare in Love." She appeared opposite **Matt Damon** and **Jude Law** in "The Talented Mr. Ripley," and in the hit "A Perfect Murder" with **Michael Douglas**. Her other credits include "Sliding Doors," "Great Expectations," "Duets," and "Bounce," where she co-starred with her former boyfriend, **Ben Affleck**. And, in "Shallow Hal," she stretched her acting muscles even more when she played radically against type and portrayed a fat woman!

Now, in her latest starrer, "View from the Top," Gwyneth Paltrow goes off the beaten track again as she turns in an inspired comic performance as Donna Jensen, an ordinary salesgirl from an impoverished town, who aspires to become an international first-class flight attendant.

At first, director **Bruno Barreto** ("Doña Flor and Her Two Husbands") wasn't sure if the ethereally beautiful Gwyneth could play a girl who grew up in a railer. But the actress quickly proved her mettle in off-beat characterization and comedy, so all doubts became moot and academic.

Due to her unprepossessing background, Gwyneth's character has a hard time realizing her dream of flying all over the world in style. She starts off shuttling drunks and gamblers on a California bus line, then slowly claws her way up to Sierra Airlines.

But it only flies from Lubbock to Fresno, the pilot falls asleep at the wheel, and attendants have to wear a purple and fuchsia uniform, so she soon wants out!

She gets her big break when she's accepted for training at posh Royalty Airlines. She finds a mentor in Sherry, an older flight attendant, who takes her under her wing. But her supposed best friend, Christine, back-stabs her and cheats to get ahead of the game, so Gwyneth's character realizes that dreams don't come easy, and she still has a lot of lessons to learn before she can consider herself the success she's always wanted to be.

Eventually, she also realizes that even "success" needs to be redefined—particularly when she falls in love with a wonderful man, and must therefore reexamine the priorities in her life.

"View from the Top" is further enhanced by its other players, interesting actors, one and all—**Mike Myers, Candice Bergen, Rob Lowe, Kelly Preston, Chad Everett**, etc. All that, and Gwyneth Paltrow, too? This, we've got to see.

Pinoy Box Office

PINOY Box Office started telecasting last Aug. 1, screening Filipino films from the impressive Viva catalogue of movies. The new movie service also shows concerts featuring hot music acts, music videos and sports events. It's on 24 hours a day.

Starting Sept. 1, PBO is scheduled to go international, starting with homes in the United States. Pinoy Box Office is a division of Viva Entertainment Inc. Call 687-0595.

'Rhythm Method'

CCP's Tanghalang Pilipino and the Japan Foundation (Manila Office) invites theater buffs to watch "Rhythm Method" (Kung Kailan Ka Pwede)" starting Aug. 15 at 8 p.m. at Tanghalang Huseng Batute. Call 832-3661.

'Bad Boys 2'

IN "BAD BOYS 2," star comic **Martin Lawrence** is reunited with **Will Smith** in a story about two Miami narcotics detectives battling a Cuban drug lord. The film is directed by **Michael Bay**, who made his directorial debut in the first "Bad Boys" film, way back in 1995.

Asked to compare his work on the two movies, Bay observes that Lawrence has become a more accommodating and professional actor. "In 1995," he recalls, "Martin had a little bit of attitude. Now, he comes to the set on time, eager to work."

Raymond . . .

From page A26

keep coming back to my true love, which is singing."

And after four years of shying away from show business, Raymond is back. On Aug. 15 and 29, Raymond will perform in an intimate, two-night show at the Hyatt's Calesa Bar, entitled "Raymond Lauchengco: The Romantic Lead."

The Calesa Bar show will highlight Raymond's maturity as a singer and performer, with him singing an array of songs he has never done before. "For the very first time I'll be singing standards," he says. "I've always had a heart for standards but it seemed like I was always too young. Now seems like the right time."

Raymond will include Spanish love songs in his series. "I like the romantic sound of the language, the poetry in Spanish songs. Even the melodies have a certain lilt that evoke romance and passion. Then, of course, there are the songs from Broadway and the West End, which are sheer pleasure to perform," he adds.

And on these two nights, which he intends to make special and romantic, Raymond's musical passions will be shared by noted musical director Rudy Francisco.

"He's an institution," enthuses Raymond. "And he's someone I look up to. I'm in awe of his talent."

Raymond enjoys the give and take of energy between a performer and his audience in intimate venues.

"Intimate shows are so quintessential, so simple, so transparent," he says. "There's no orchestra or full-size band, no spectacular sets or dazzling lights. All you have is the heart and soul of the performers.

"This is a major show for me, even if it's in a small venue. A lot of myself is going into this. In a way I'd like to make up for my absence by throwing into these performances all the passion, the yearning, and the longing I've felt to sing again."

It's Nina and Jimmy, not Nina and Nyoy

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I MADE a funny booboo in my column last Thursday. I got the names of **Nyoy Volante** and **Jimmy Bondoc** mixed up.

I wrote that Nyoy and **Nina** were playing beautiful music together even off-stage. I stand corrected. It's Jimmy and Nina who are said to be the newest lovebirds in the music scene.

I got confused because the three acoustic singers usually perform together. With their countless gigs together always being plugged on the radio, it's almost like they are inseparable triplets. Their names have become sort of synonymous already.

So to all of Nina, Jimmy and Nyoy's followers, mea culpa! Just like their "unplugged" performances, my mind was probably not plugged in yet as of press time last week.

'Komiks' MTV

I IMMENSELY enjoyed watching the MTV Pilipinas awards at the NBC Tent last Aug 6. The show had a *komiks* theme. The very Pinoy set with a *sari-sari* store, a basketball court, a jeepney and a *sorbetes* cart added drama to it all. To complete the effect, stand-up comics introduced most of the segments.

The audience lapped up the antics of the Ate Guy look-alike comic who really sounded and moved like the superstar. For added Pinoy flavor, **Andrea del Rosario** was suspended in midair as Darna being chased by a vampire. Plus they threw in *Kuya* **Germs** with a marching band for a fiesta feel.

The presentors of the awards were a good mix. As MTV's dashing main man **Rod Nepomuceno** told me, "We wanted to have a representative from each sector because MTV knows no age. Everybody from professionals to students watch MTV."

They had Dr. **Vicky Belo**, who was her ever hip and vivacious self, Rep. **Imee Marcos**, *Direk* **Fritz Ynfante**, ace fotog **Raymond Isaac, Cherie Gil**, DJs from various FM radio stations, to name a few.

Cherie brought the house down when she reenacted her famous confrontation "You're-nothing-but-a-second-rate-copycat!" scene from her movie with **Sharon Cuneta**.

Hosts **Ogie Alcasid** and **Ruffa Mae Quinto** did a superb job of keeping the audience glued to their seats even if it was almost midnight.

Congrats to my idols, Truefaith, for bagging San Miguel Beer's "Been There, Still Here" award. No doubt, Truefaith's music is here to stay.

After the awards, Truefaith and I partied with **Luke Mejares** and the rest of the MTV group at Pier One Fort.

Endless thanks to Pier's *muy graciosa* PR girl **French** for the red-carpet treatment. It was the first time I met Luke and we hit it off instantly. Despite all the fame and fortune, he remains a simple Boholano at heart. I couldn't stop laughing all night as he pretended to be gay, with matching accent and grooves.

Over midnight snack and some booze, **Medwin** and **Eugene Marfil** of Truefaith, and Luke took turns in singing '70s songs. Their company made me feel like I had the best seat in the house.

Gary after 20 years

OVER 20 years ago, no one would have thought **Gary Valenciano** would be the popular icon that he is now. His parents separated in 1979 and he felt very much on his own. For most of his high school life, Gary was the aloof type, with not many friends. He joined the Kundirana in his senior year and things were never the same again.

Today, Gary has a number of multi-platinum records and countless hit concerts to his name.

Gary "met" the Lord in 1985. It is in this perspective that we see how Gary's career and spiritual life are. In his every engagement, he injects bits and pieces of his faith, to inspire his audience to open their hearts and experience the same bliss he enjoys.

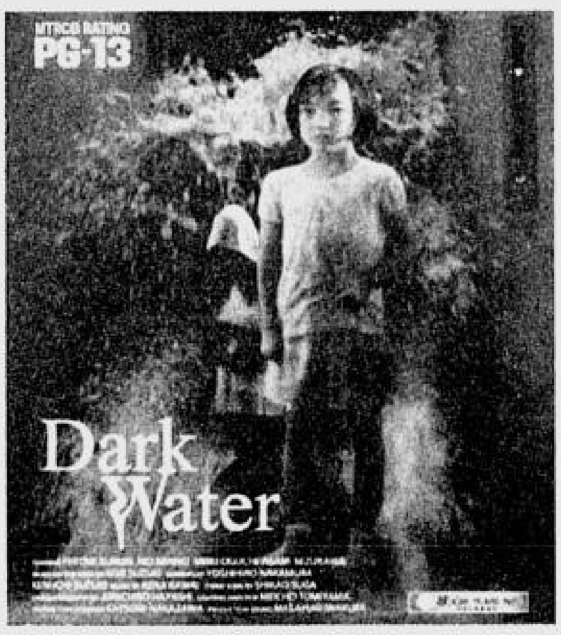
The 2001 Awit Award's Best Male Recording Artist and Katha's Best Pop Male Vocal Performer is a man who gives flesh to his words. When not busy with concerts and recordings, he is occupied with socio-civic advocacies. This Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardee is hands-on in the fight for children's rights and welfare, being the spokesperson of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef Philippines).

Gary is also active in promoting awareness of diabetes, himself being a sufferer of the potentially debilitating disease. Ironically, he is also known as

IT'S NINA/ A24

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MOTEL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MOTEL
B	SNAKE LADY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	MOTEL
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
CINEMA-7	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THE IN-LAWS
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	SNAKE LADY
CINEMA-15	NAKED WEAPON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-1	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-2	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-4	BULLETPROOF MONK
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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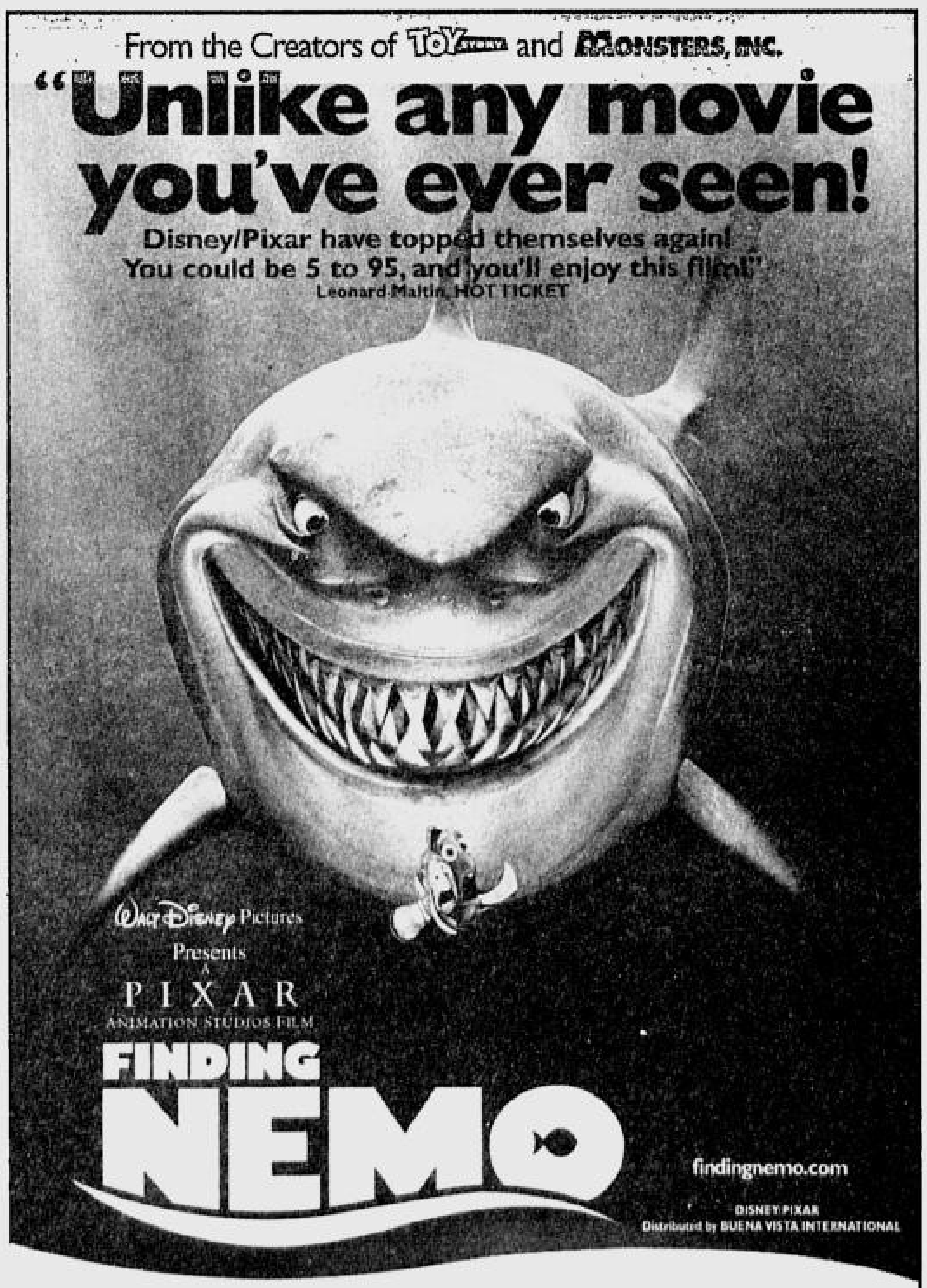
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BAD BOYS 2 R13 1:00,4:00, 7:00,10:00	NAKED WEAPON R13 1:25,3:35,5:45 MY LITTLE EYE - R13 7:40,9:40	THE IN-LAWS PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10

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'Jomari and I tempted to be more than friends'

By Nini Valera

ACTRESS Ara Mina is blaming politics for the way fellow actress and Quezon City Councilor Aiko Melendez has been accusing her of causing the breakup of the politician's marriage to actor Jomari Yllana.

Blamed as the other woman in the Aiko-Jomari-Ara triangle, Ara also claimed there is nothing more than friendship between her and Jomari.

"We're just friends," she insisted, like Jomari himself.

But Ara admitted that there were times that she and Jomari were tempted to transform this friendship into a romantic and sexual liaison.

"We'd dare each other, but we'd take it back," she said. "I would tell him that I still have plenty of things I want to accomplish and I might not be able to do these things if he got me pregnant. We would joke a lot about it and we'd end up laughing. It's better this way."

"But we're very close," she confided. "He's someone I can run to when I need something. Yes, it's true he had borrowed money from me when he was jobless, but he already paid it back. I also borrowed money from him, but I also paid him back."

Ara, 24, on Sunday told INQUIRER Entertainment that Aiko would be running against Ara's biological father, Councilor Chuck Mathay, for the congressional seat of the second district of Quezon City.

"Naturally, if she succeeds in ruining me, she'd also be destroying the credibility of my dad," said Ara in Taglish. "She's doing this for the sake of politics. I don't know if someone is pushing her to do this, but I know she has a backer in her candidacy. That's why she wants to put me down. If I'm ruined in public, my dad is also ruined."

Long shot

Ara said she knows Jomari inside out even if they don't speak out their feelings.

"Actions speak louder than words," she said. "Like, why am I still here for him? But I do go out with other guys, and he goes out with other girls. We're very open to each other about that."

That Jomari would propose marriage to her is a long shot, according to Ara.

"I don't think he'd want to, not after his marriage failed," she said. "He told me he didn't know how he'd rise on his feet again. But I encouraged him to face up to his failures. It makes me sad to think about it."

She said she understood why Jomari would be scared of marrying again.

"I can't force him to court me *naman*," she laughed. "I like him, but I can't say I'm in love with him. I can't say if we would ever be involved and be more than friends. I'm not yet ready for love."

Go-between

Ara said she even tried to patch up Aiko and Jomari's marriage.

"One time on the taping of 'Bubble Gang,' Jomari was so upset about the way his marriage was crumbling," Ara said in Taglish. "Aiko, he said, was jealous of Elizabeth Oropesa, to whom Jomari would confide his problems. One time, I asked him if he wanted me to talk to Aiko. He didn't want me to get involved. He said Aiko wouldn't listen to me anyway."

She said that when Aiko finally left Jomari, the actor was the last to know. Again, they were taping for a TV sitcom.

"People were texting us, saying Aiko had talked to the media that she and Jomari were separated already," Ara said. "Imagine that. Jomari was still going home to their house. That's how he found out that Aiko had left him. That's when they talked."

Ara said this happened two weeks after Aiko was elected Quezon City councilor . She said that even when their marriage was already rocky during the election campaign, the couple still denied they were on the verge of breaking up.

"Only politics is on her mind," Ara said.

Ambition-driven

How Aiko could be so bold in ending her marriage has left Ara wondering.

"We girls," she said, "we'd only have the courage to leave our husbands if we have a fallback, like if you have a stable job, a family that's rich and could support you, or if there's another man. Ask any woman, that's always the case. That's why there are lots of women who become martyrs in a relationship. They won't leave their husbands who beat them because they've got nowhere to go. They suffer the relationship because they have no other option."

She said a woman would leave her partner if she's also driven by ambition. This happened to Ara herself, she admitted. She said she left a three-year relationship with a man, who's not from show biz, so she could become an actress.

"I didn't tell him I would be going bold," Ara related. "So he got mad at me. I told him I'd leave him. So we separated, but after a few days, he called me up and said he'd let me go bold. He just wouldn't read the papers or watch TV or listen to the radio. But he still couldn't handle it. He beat me up and we separated."

ARA MINA says politics is Aiko's reason for dragging her into the breakup of the Aiko-Jomari marriage

This relationship had been her last serious affair, she said.

Family first

What does she like about Jomari?

"He's real," she said. "He's not a phony. He's also a gentleman. Until he talked to you, he didn't want to talk about why his marriage failed."

But there are also his flaws.

"Like he's very moody, and if he gets upset with you, he won't talk to you," Ara said. "So I'm the one to say sorry to him."

But she said her family comes first with her. Which is why she had placed her college education on hold so she would not miss out on film offers and other opportunities. She is proud of having helped send her siblings to school, and of buying cars for two of them and her mother. But her goal now is to give them money for capital to put up their own business the same way she did.

She and a partner own the Italian restaurant Osteria on Tomas Morato Street in Quezon City.

Slowing down

"I want to secure my mother's future," said the daughter who also admitted that she was not always in good terms with her mother.

"She doesn't work, you see," she said of her mom. "I told her I'd give her money to start a business, but she does not want that. What she wants is something like an apartment building from where she would collect rent monthly. So I'm planning to build her apartments."

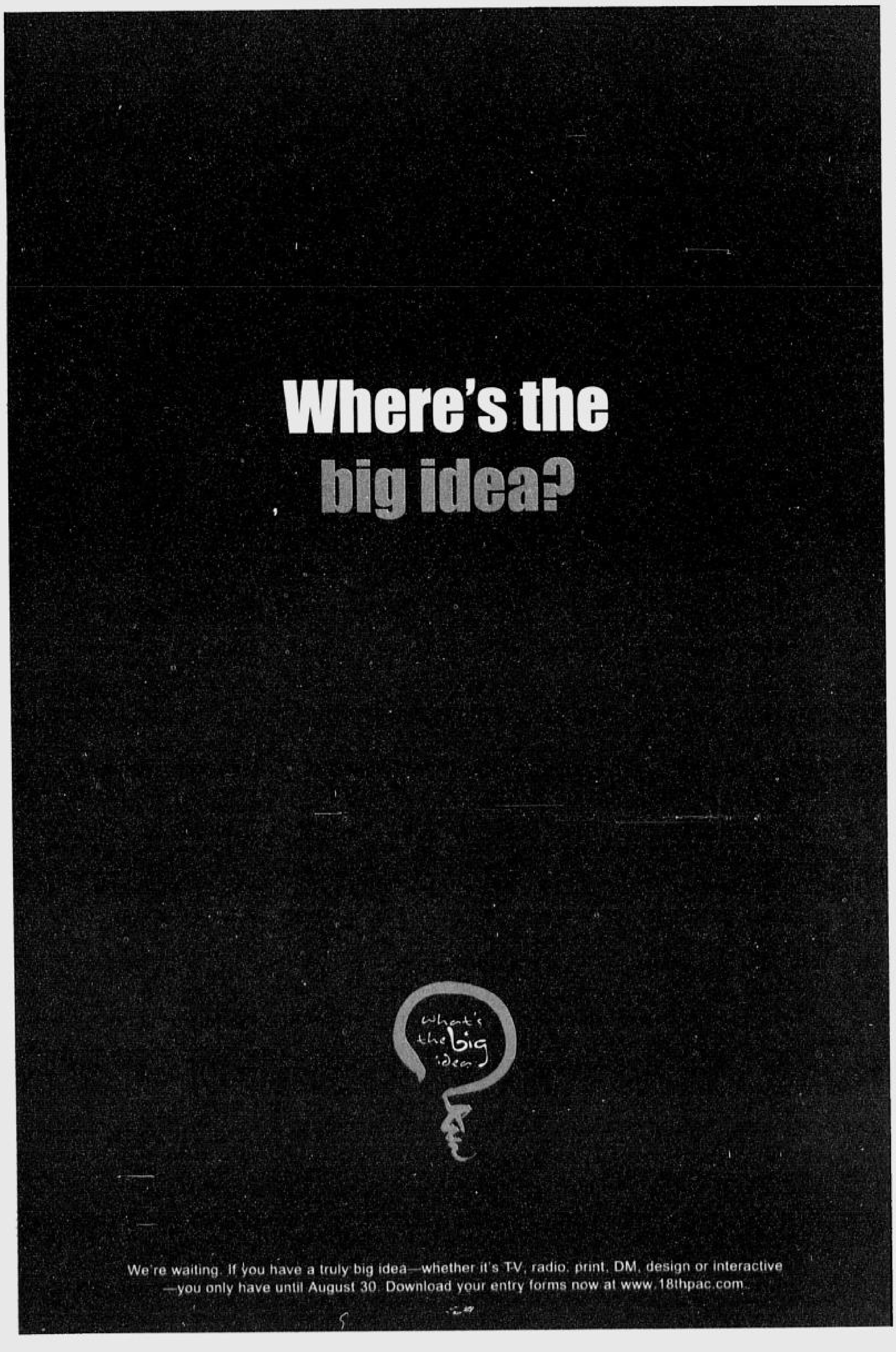
She is also bent on securing her own future and on reducing the bold roles she accepts.

"I have done so many bold films already, I've stopped counting," she said. "I leave bold roles to the others. I'd like to take a different step, which is why I've accepted this horror movie with Jomari."

She has so many plans that she has no time to slow down and fall in love, saying she might forget her career "because I go crazy when I fall in love."

"In short, I don't want to be like my mother," she said.

Then Ara, the dutiful daughter, left the interview, which was held in her restaurant, to take her mother, Francis Marie, to dinner at a chicken restaurant.



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PORTRAIT of the photographer as concert performer: Lauchengco

Raymond Lauchengco is singing again

IT'S BEEN several years now since Raymond Lauchengco took his last bow in show business, although he continues to perform in some shows.

Raymond can still be counted on to thrill audiences, as he did during a teacher's convention earlier this year. His voice, trained in classical music, and his seasoned theatrical presence still earn him respect and admiration when he performs in private functions and corporate events. He also hosts and sings in product launches.

For the past four years, Raymond has been working mostly behind the scenes, as a photographer. After a successful photo exhibit less than three years ago and establishing himself as a professional photographer and a visual artist, a transition from stills to video was inevitable. He was TV director for the live concerts that his manager Roxanne A. Lapus directed for Viva, such as The Greatest Hits I and II Series.

He was later given the chance to sink his teeth into even more challenging projects.

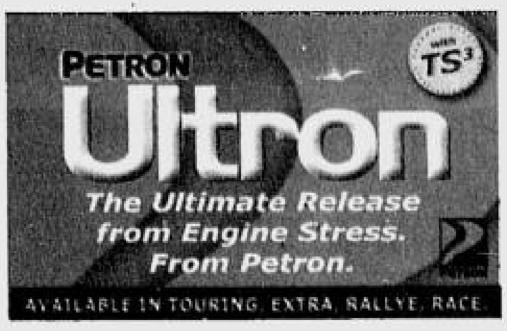
"I directed several segments of a two-hour travel special hosted by Isabella, Karylle and Ciara Sotto," Raymond says. "Then Anjie Ureta gave me a call asking me to direct a show she was cooking up for ANC. I couldn't say no.."

That show was "Uptown with Webb," a weekly lifestyle magazine show that featured some of the best, and the priciest homes, shops and restaurants in the metropolis.

Soon, Raymond found himself directing the music video of "Bakit Nga Ba Hindi" by Dexter and Bituin Escalante for Viva Records.

"I have never turned my back on singing," he declares. "I don't think I ever will. For the past few years I've tried photography, directing, painting, and recently, even writing. There are many things I like to do, but no matter what happens, I always seem to

RAYMOND/ A25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Talks on sale of Globe stake fail

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA Corp. and Singapore Telecom International Pte. Ltd. failed to hammer out a deal to acquire a 20-percent stake held by Deutsche Telekom AG in leading mobile phone provider Globe Telecom.

But while Deutsche Telekom is now free to offer its stake to other groups, Ayala and SingTel were continuing negotiations with the German firm in search of a possible middle ground, INQUIRER sources said yesterday.

Ayala and SingTel, in separate disclosures to the Philippine and Singapore stock exchanges, said the German firm's 45-day offer period expired on Friday "with no agreement reached by the parties."

Deutsche Telekom rejected a counter-offer made by Ayala and SingTel to jointly purchase 80 percent of the stake held by the debt-strapped German firm in Globe Telecom—equivalent to about 20 percent out of the entire 24.8-percent bloc—on pricing issues.

Ayala, for its part, is still interested in buying a portion of Deutsche Telekom's stake should the German firm come up with a compromise package.

"If there is no other buyer and Deutsche Telekom is willing to put another offer, then Ayala will take a look it," an official from Ayala said yesterday.

Net equity earnings from Globe Telecom, the second biggest cellular phone provider in the Philippines and the pioneer in GSM technology, accounted for about 45 percent of Ayala's profit.

If Deutsche Telekom is in a hurry to unload its stake in Globe Telecom, it will only be able to close a deal if it could find a buyer which will, at the very least, accept the same terms it offered to Ayala and SingTel.

The Ayala official added that it was now up to the German firm on whether it would like to put up its own counter-offer to fast-track its sellout in Globe Telecom or search for a third-party buyer.

It was earlier reported that Deutsche Telekom wanted to sell the stake at the P700 per share or at a premium over the market price of Globe Telecom, which closed at P645 yesterday. Ayala and SingTel had offered to buy the stake at an undisclosed price, presumably at a better bargain.

Ayala owns 32.7 percent of Globe Telecom while SingTel controls 29.1 percent. Had Deutsche Telekom accepted the counter-offer to each purchase 40 percent of the stake, Ayala's stake would have increased to 42.7 percent and SingTel's, to 39.1 percent.

Of the total stake held by the German firm, an estimated 12 percent is held directly in the form of common shares while the balance is owned via Asiacom--a joint venture that is 60-percent owned by Ayala, 20 percent by SingTel, and 20 percent by the German firm.

Deutsche Telekom is pulling out of Asia to reduce its 56.3 billion euros worth of debt, bulk of which was accumulated during a global expansion binge at the peak of the telecom boom.

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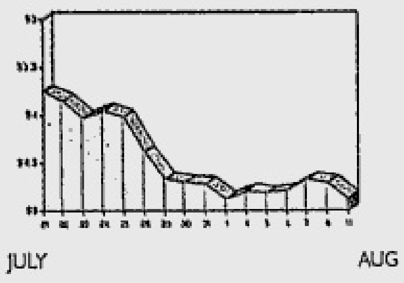

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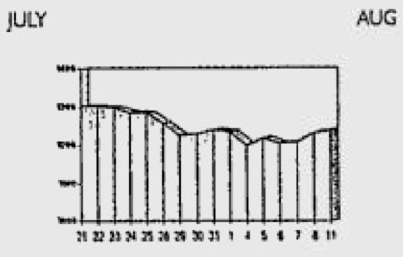
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks end up

STOCKS ended slightly higher yesterday as key large caps seen offering value at current levels remained in favor, traders said.

The main composite index finished up 5.12 points, or 0.42 percent, at 1,238. Turnover was a lackluster P289.4 million, sharply below Friday's P487.4 million.

Traders said investors had put security fears in the wake of a failed uprising by renegade soldiers on the backburner, pending fresh developments.

"Peace and order remains a concern, especially for foreigners, but local investors are looking beyond that to the earnings of key companies and most so far have been okay, though not spectacular," said Rommel Macapagal, chair of Westlink Global Securities.

With the market up for a third successive session and investors moving out of third-liners and back into large caps, Macapagal said the main index had room for further gains. *Reuters*

Energy sector gets ADB grant

THE ASIAN Development Bank yesterday said it has approved a $800,000 (about P43 million) technical assistance grant to strengthen the Department of Energy as well as to promote good governance in the local power sector.

In a statement, the Manila-based lender said the grant would help clarify the respective roles of the DOE and the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The grant would also aid in building the planning capacity of the DOE's electric power industry management bureau.

The EPIMB is tasked to supervise the restructuring of the power sector with the aim of creating a competitive market and ensuring an efficient and reliable supply of electricity.

The ADB's grant would also be used to draw up a five-year plan to promote partnerships between public and private entities aimed at extending the coverage of rural electrification efforts to areas that were previously considered unviable.

"As the lead financing agency in the power sector (in the country), ADB will continue to review and monitor the privatization process and conduct regular policy dialogue with the government," said ADB senior energy specialist Yongping Zhai.

"For the long-term, the goal of ADB's assistance is to ensure the quality, reliability, security and affordability of electricity supply in the Philippines," he added.

Meantime, the government is expected to contribute $350,000 (about P19 million) to complete the total grant cost of $1.15 million (P621 million).

The grant would cover a full year's work up to September 2004. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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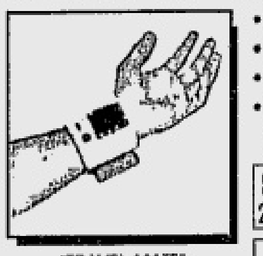

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6.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	180,000	150,000
7.	CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
8.	CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	130,000
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	420,000	350,000
10	EASTRIDGE B		160,000*
11.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	360,000	
12.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,200,000
13.	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,200,000
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Waking up a giant: Revitalizing mining in Mindanao

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan-Bian

EARLIER this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo pronounced her administration's resolve to develop the mining industry in the country. The Mindanao business community has received this news favorably, considering the mining industry's current moribund state in the island.

One of the resolutions of the 11th Mindanao Business Conference last year was for the revitalization of the Mindanao mining industry, with focus on the Caraga Region. The MBC deems it necessary to intensify efforts in rebuilding and revitalizing the economy of Mindanao by seriously considering alternative industries that have high impact on investments in the region. We view the mineral industry as one of those industries with a low rate of utilization in the Mindanao economy and that there are significant lost opportunities from the inability to optimize its substantial mineral resources.

The Philippines ranks second in the world in gold and third in copper deposits. Mindanao accounts for 80 percent of total national deposits of copper, nickel and gold. Currently, of the 23 major metallic projects operating in the Philippines, nine are in Mindanao (primarily in Surigao and Davao Oriental). But the fact remains that while Eastern and Western Mindanao have been proven to have substantial reserves of these minerals, the two regions are still among the poorest in the island, if not in the country.

Mining could bring considerable wealth to these areas, providing jobs (according to the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences, the formal sector of the mining industry employed a total of 109,500 individuals in 2000), developing local industries, and improving infrastructure. Undoubtedly, the development of the industry can be another anti-poverty strategy in Mindanao.

As it is, the gross value-added contribution of mining is P10.5 billion, representing 1.2 percent of the gross national product of the country, according to BMG data. Moreover, the required investments for mining operations could easily run to millions of dollars. Thus, mining can render the biggest possible economic impact on Mindanao within the shortest possible time.

Among the mineral industry's challenges, despite its prodigious potential, is the intense opposition from various environmentalist groups and communities. This has taken much of the spotlight on the mineral issue in the country for the past years.

Bad experiences with mining firms, such as environmental destruction, did not help allay public sympathy for affected communities, particularly for indigenous people. The industry ended up with the image of an incessant and ruthless environmental despoiler.

The negative publicity has undermined the fact that mining has been and will be a significant contributor to the national economy. It has a major role in improving the quality of life of the people, primarily through job generation. Mining products are indispensable materials in an increasingly globalized world that demands raw materials for massive industrialization.

What deserves attention is that major mining firms are integrating social responsibility into their operations in local communities through the guarantee of protection of public health and safety, community infrastructure support, livelihood development, and respect for indigenous people and the environment.

The government has also stepped up its requirements for prospective mining operators to provide social services, including facilities such as schools and clinics, in the areas where they will operate.

Increasingly, mining companies have established partnerships with local government units, people's organizations and community members. This is in recognition of the fact that mining communities have to be considered as shareholders in mining operations, hence the importance of maintaining harmonious understanding and cooperation with the locals in the management of resources.

On the part of the MBC, it is our goal to pursue the development of the mining industry in Mindanao for its utmost economic benefits at the least possible ,social, environmental and political costs.

Revitalizing the mineral industry in Mindanao may just be the needed vehicle to get our regional economy moving. Nonetheless, a number of legitimate claims made by opposing groups must not be ignored. It is good that the new players in the Philippine mining sector have chosen to be more conscious of the need to address environmental, health, and indigenous peoples concerns. The practice of corporate social responsibility and self-regulation must be ensured at all stages and in all areas.

In closing, allow me to mention a good model to emulate—the Silangan Mindanao Exploration Co., which has an exploration project in Tubod, Surigao del Norte. This partnership between Philex Gold Philippines Inc. and Anglo American brings with it a good track record of responsible corporate citizenship, as exemplified in the statement made by its chief executive officer, Mr. Tony Trahar: "Our strategy is to develop our capacity for including social, environmental and political considerations into our business decision-making. As our 'Good Citizenship' principles make clear, we will reflect local priorities, sustainability and cost-effectiveness in our decisions, while striving to set group norms that respond to global challenges and needs."

(Ms Joji Ilagan Bian is the chair of the Mindanao Business Council and deputy chair of the East Asean Business Council)

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

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June 2003

Gov't OKs establishment of P704-M science center

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is set to build a P704-million science center in UP Diliman that aims to boost community-based science and technology culture, literacy and consciousness among Filipinos, the National Economic and Development Authority announced yesterday.

The Neda said in a statement that the Cabinet-level Investment Coordination Committee—which screens projects involving public spending and official development assistance—had approved the new Philippine Science Centrum (PSC) project.

The project involves the construction and development of a permanent facility and infrastructure that will house the interactive exhibits of the PSC. The center will be used for the development and conduct of non-formal and informal science and technology (S&T) education programs.

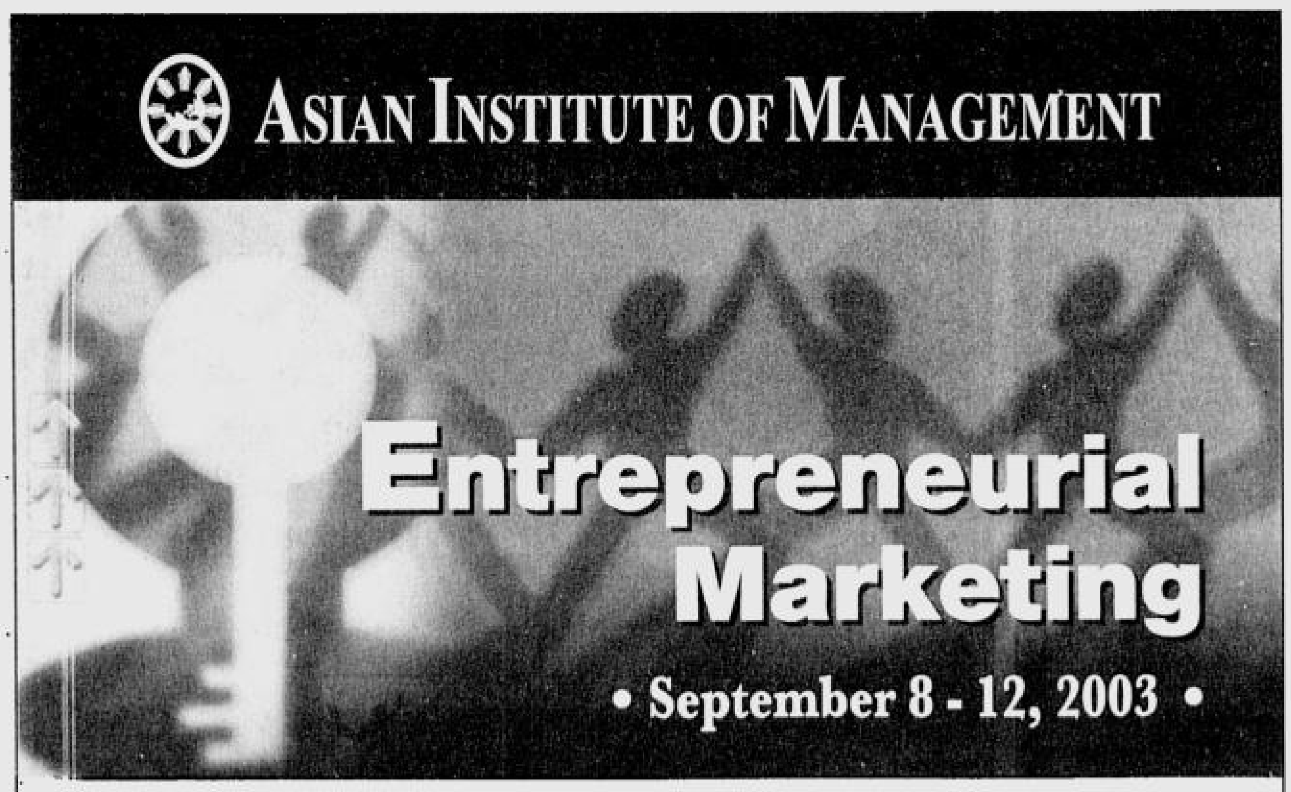
The University of the Philippines Board of Regents has agreed to lease out a three-hectare land within the S&T park of the Diliman, Quezon City campus for the project, which will be implemented over a five-year period.

The government has proposed to cover P600 million or 85.2 percent of the project cost using funding from the Japanese Government's Grant Aid Program, Neda director for public investment Jonathan Uy said.

"The remaining amount (P104 million), or 14.8 percent, will represent the local counterpart," Uy stated.

Based on an arrangement between the Department of Science and Technology and the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology, the PSC project will not require budgetary allocation from the government as the latter will shoulder all project implementation and operating costs.

The proposed PSC will feature various galleries (such as general science gallery, technology gallery, industry gallery), seasonal exhibits, a science playground, an Ultra 70 theater (a dome-like structure where science films and documentaries are shown in a 360-degree or panoramic vision screen, which shall also serve as a planetarium), and other interactive learning facilities.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Subic expects power rate cut

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Locators in this freeport could save as much as P60 million a year with the recent privatization of the power distribution system here, according to officials of the Subic Enerzone Inc.

The Subic Enerzone is a joint venture between the Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV)-Davao Light and Power Co. and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

The SBMA board recently awarded the privatization project to AEV, whose bid of 59.75 centavos per kilowatt-hour was lower than the previous distribution rate of more than P1 per kWh. The AEV distribution rate will bring down the power cost in SBMA to P3.90 per kWh from the current level of P4.49 per kWh.

Subic Enerzone director Luis Miguel Aboitiz said he was optimistic that locators here could realize bigger savings in the future through lower power rates.

Jeremy Simpson, managing director of the Exquisite Co. Inc., said electricity remained one of his company's biggest concern since its operations were heavily dependent on power.

However, he said the company was more concerned about the quality and reliability of power than the rates. He noted that any power interruption could result in production losses.

"We have a lot of heavy machinery and if electricity is cut off even for 30 minutes, we need to restart each machine and begin to work from scratch," Simpson said.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo described the power privatization as a "fruitful partnership" between AEV and SBMA. He said he was happy with the terms under the agreement.

"Any reduction in cost is very much welcome," Payumo said, noting that the project's contract would be approved this month.

Aboitiz said AEV was also seeking Malacañang's approval of the power contract.

On May 15, the SBMA entered into an agreement with AEV for the privatization of the power distribution system in the zone under a rehabilitate-operate-transfer (ROT) scheme.

SBMA's current power rate is slightly lower than the average industrial rate of P4.94 per kWh in the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

With the privatization, power cost in Subic would be cheaper than the industrial charges in Metro Manila at P6.02 per kWh, Zambales at P5.39 per kWh, Pampanga at P4.78 per kWh and Bataan at P5.20 per kWh.

Payumo said the lower rates would make investing in Subic more profitable as companies would be more "cost-competitive."

He said based on the current average monthly power billings, big manufacturing companies in Subic freeport like Wistron Infocomm Philippines (formerly Acer) would realize monthly savings of more than P36,000 under the new rates.

Non-industrial establishments like Legenda Hotel and the Subic Bay Yacht Club could save as much as P423,000 and P184,000, respectively.

Payumo said the privatization project would also be advantageous to the government as AEV would pay the SBMA an annual fee of P40 million and spare it from spending P350 million for systems rehabilitation. The winning bidder will shoulder the cost of upgrading. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Marina to phase out wooden-hulled vessels

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MARITIME Industry Authority (Marina) is currently working on a memorandum circular that will effectively phase out all wooden-hulled vessels.

Marina administrator Oscar Sevilla said in a statement that this was in line with the agency's efforts to come up with reforms that would lead to a safer maritime industry.

Other concerned government agencies and some private sector entities are also working with the Marina in drafting the circular.

However, Sevilla warned staunch proponents of the vessel phase-out that they should not be "over eager" about this issue as this should be "approached both from the safety and economic viewpoints."

He pointed out that wooden-hulled vessels usually served the "less profitable but socially valuable tertiary routes."

Should a phase-out be done, he said it would be a gradual process so as not to create a huge impact on sea travelers, entrepreneurs and shippers of goods that use wooden-hulled vessels for their travels and their businesses.

The Maritime Industry Cluster (MIC), the umbrella organization of private sector shipping stakeholders, suggested that the continued operations of wooden-hulled vessels be thoroughly reviewed: That such vessels be limited to daytime operations or these be phased out altogether.

The MV San Nicolas, which collided with the SuperFerry 12 off the coast of Limbones Island and Corregidor more than two months ago, was a wooden-hulled vessel. The accident claimed more than 30 lives.

But phasing these vessels out was not easy to do as these ships' operators rarely had enough funds to do vessel upgrading.

To help soften the blow of such reforms on small ship operators, the MIC urged the government to "provide affordable financing to smaller ship operators to encourage them to improve and upgrade their ships."

The MIC is calling for reforms in the maritime industry to make it safer and more viable. Apart from the phase-out of wooden-hulled vessels, the MIC is also seeking a review of the Philippine Merchant Marine Rules and Regulations (PMMRR) of 1997.

Among the provisions of the 1997 PMMRR that need to be reviewed are those covering non-classed vessels and wooden-hulled ships. These smaller vessels usually ply regional and inter-regional routes and are not governed by International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulations.

Bank lending rose 5.1% to ₱1.44T in June

By Clarissa S. Batino

COMMERCIAL bank lending in June grew 5.1 percent this year to P1.444 trillion from P1.374 trillion a year ago, sustaining the positive trend for the tenth straight month, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

But compared with the previous month's level, credit extension had slowed down by 1.34 percent from P1.463 trillion in May. Bank lending suffered months of contraction before starting to post growth in September last year.

The central bank does not expect bank lending to pick up substantially for the rest of the year despite low interest rates and sufficient liquidity in the financial system.

Records show that the government remains the banks' biggest borrower.

The BSP said a five-percent loan growth for the full year was good enough given a weak demand for credit, particularly from the private sector which continued to experience excess inventory due to soft consumer demand.

"Demand for credit has not picked up substantially so we still expect growth to be moderate," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

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Shell income up 3.8%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. yesterday said it had posted a net income of P1.6 billion in the first half of 2003, an increase of 3.8 percent from P1.56 billion in the same period last year.

Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell general manager for external affairs, said in an interview that the company also saw a 2-percent increase in sales to 19.14 million barrels in the first six months from the year-ago figure of 18.76 million barrels.

"The company's growth is quite significant considering that the industry (shrank) by 0.4 percent in the same period," Kanapi said.

The oil executive added that the growth was mainly a result of Pilipinas Shell's "continued dominance in added value market innovation."

He explained that Shell's tollway plaza's—or the big service stations with convenience stores and fast-food outlets—were already reaping profits. He did not provide details.

Kanapi said Shell's growth was also due to its revitalized campaign in the lubricants market as well as enhanced efficiency of its distribution network.

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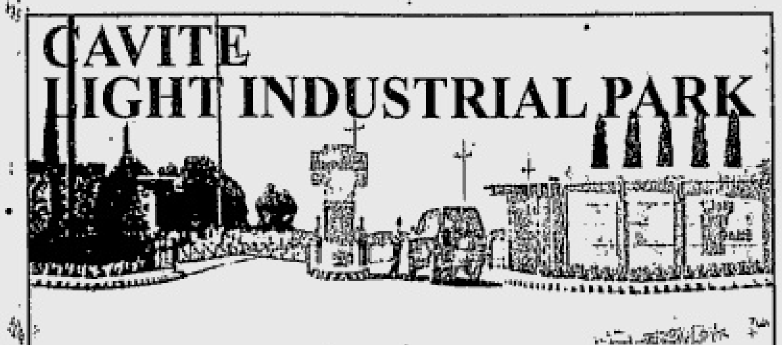

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MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

AN OPENLY gay bishop in the Unite States married two same-sex in his Church. He was later charged with insecticide.

An old man came out of the doctor's office looked utterly bewildered. "The doctor says I have AIDS at 72." "That's nothing," said his friend. "I have MERB at 86."

Three members of the F4 gang, which robbed jeepneys in Manila, have been arrested. This is a major setback for Meteor Garden.

I might be on the list of suspects connected with the mutiny because of my Tattoo. Admittedly, it is not an "I" shape under the left arm; its a tattoo of Jennifer Lopez. Also, it is not under my left arm, it is on my—well never mind where it's on—it is very painful to remove and I bawl a lot. To make sure, I am not a threat, I have resigned as President of the Flat Earth Society and Vice President of the Institute of Deutsche Prostitutes. I have absolutely no intention of running for government office, though I wouldn't mind play second Fidel to Ramos.

I visited an old friend in a nursing home. He was very happy and told me that every night at 10 p.m., the nurse would give him a cup of hot chocolate and a Viagra tablet. I was appalled and asked the nurse if it was true, "Yes," she said, "the hot chocolate makes him sleep and the Viagra stops him rolling out of bed."

Two women were playing golf. One hit a tremendous drive and struck a man 200 yards in front of her. He thrust his hand in between his legs and rolled in agony. The woman was very embarrassed but said she was a physical therapist and asked if she could massage it to reduce the pain. The man agreed and she massaged it for 10 minutes, "Is it any better?" she asked. "Yes," he said, "that was very nice but my thumb is still killing me."

* * *

THERE is not a great deal to write about this week, hence all these jokes. The market fell 37 points on Monday, then fluctuated in low volume and fell on Thursday, due to foreign brokers being net sellers of P43 million, the first time in about four months. But it was due to a sale of 55 million TEL, which pushed the price as low as P482.50. On Friday, the foreign brokers were back in the market in a big way and were net buyers of P93 million. TEL recovered to P510, after touching P515. They were also buying MERB, FPH and ALI and the Phisix recovered 25 points.

I was disappointed with ALI's results, which showed profits up 4.4 percent in the first half. Even allowing for this, the shares are on a price/earnings ratio of 24 so I feel they are expensive. Our Research Department, which operated independently and never reads my technical analysis, downgraded the stock from NEUTRAL to REDUCE, with a one-year price target of P5.60.

In the first half of 2002, AC made a net profit of P2.5 billion, so in reality their net profit was P700 million. In the first half of 2003, AC made P1.38 billion, an increase of almost 100 percent. Globe grew at 42 percent and paid them a maiden dividend, and in terms of stock market performance, GLO, ALI and BPI all did well. In addition, its water company doubled its profits to P680 million and its electronic subsidiary improved 48 percent to P280 million, it will beat last year's profits. AC may take up its allocation of at least 10 percent of the 24.8 percent of GLOBE being sold by Deutsche Telekom, which recorded the biggest loss ever made by a European company. This means that AC will have to fork out just over $200 million but fortunately, they raised this amount on favorable terms, so this should not present any problem.

Lack of space prevented me from commenting on GLOBE last week. Their second quarter was very disappointing and my SELL signal AT P740 was perfectly timed. The company only added 450,000 subscribers but had to write off 248,000 incentive accounts, reducing the net addition to around 200,000. This compares unfavorably with TEL, which added 995,000 new subscribers. Surely, they must also have some inactive accounts.

What appears to have happened is that TEL was the first to realize that the National Capital Region is approaching saturation levels so they concentrated on the provinces, which was relatively untapped. As there is less money out there, they issued a P30 pre-paid Buddy card, which was an instant success. GLO is now practically trying to catch up and has reduced its P100 minimum to P50, but it is harder to break in once SMART is well established. So, for the moment I prefer TEL.

Again our Research Department carried out an in-depth study of both companies since they follow the telecom sector closely, and they have recommended a SWITCH out of GLOBE into TEL. I am not a technical analyst who ignores fundamental analysis point in the same direction, I feel more confident. Incidentally, there are 7 stocks, including leaders, which have a very low degree of risk.

In the United States, the economic indicators are good. The new claims for unemployment have fallen from 450,000 a month or so ago, to 390,000. The critical level is 400,000 and any figure above that shows that the labor market is contracting; any figure below that indicates the reverse so we see 6 percent before the year end.

Non-farm productivity increased from 1.9 percent in June to 5.7 percent in July, far above expectations. Most company results have been a shade better than estimated but this has been largely discounted by a 4-month rally.

In Europe, they are having an unprecedented heat wave with temperatures reaching 40.8 percent. The last time this happened was in 1948, when the nuclear powers were exploding their atomic weapons into the atmosphere without thought of the consequences. This time around, it is attributed to global warming. All the countries in the United Nations signed a declaration to abolish aerosols, which make a hole in the ozone layer. The only country that refused to sign was the United States, the chief polluter by far. There is little point in developing drugs to allow us to live 150 years or longer, if the air on the planet is no longer breathable.

There have been forest fires in France, Germany, Italy and Spain. In England, where we do not have air-conditioning except in cinemas, malls, concert and ice rinks, the entire population is on holiday as it is impossible to work in office or factories. The government has warned old people and young children not to venture out in the sun and they are losing a fortune in lost taxes. Water is running low and car stickers say, "Save water, bath with a friend."

Ayala unit eyes projects in US

By Elena R. Torrijos

AYALA International PTE Ltd., an offshore property investment unit of Ayala Corp., plans to invest in small real estate ventures in the United States.

"We're looking at some projects right now, relatively small projects to get our feet wet and projects which can generate cash and income," Ayala Corp. managing director for corporate strategy Rufino Luis Manotok said in a briefing last Friday.

AIPL is a niche player in the Asia-Pacific region with investments in Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Australia.

In its 2002 annual report, Ayala Corp. said that the United States was the intended destination of a significant portion of AIPL's capital and management resources.

In the report, AIPL president Charles Cosgrove said the company's model in the United States involved seeking partners who could help the company look for, analyze and process deals.

AIPL established a base in San Francisco in the fourth quarter of last year to facilitate the search for suitable partners and investments.

In general, the company was looking to reposition its portfolio toward more stable property markets that provide depth and breadth for deal sourcing and investment disposal.

Cosgrove noted that the relative fragmentation of the US market would allow AIPL to work with medium-sized real estate developers that require capital to continue to expand their businesses.

He said AIPL's approach to the US market would not be limited to equity but also may include debt or quasi-debt financing.

He added that only once the different Asian market showed promise after its economic difficulties would AIPL add to its current allocation in the region.

In 2002, AIPL earned S$11.8 million (Singaporean dollars) and maintained strong liquidity with a cash position of S$54 million after retiring nearly all of its debt.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 11, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.25	18	18.25	38.800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	47	47	122.800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	34	34	71.700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30.5	30	30	134.700
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	23,800
Security Bank Corp.	17.75	18.25	17.75	18	64,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	121,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1610	1600	1600	3.720
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.26	1.34	1.24	1.24	138.300
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1140	1155	1140	1155	2,680
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	20	20	1,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	420.000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	650	640	645	4.680
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.06	10.300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	42.900.000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	1,900.000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	330.000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	515	525	515	520	161,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	260.000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	20,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.25	12.25	12	12	360.200
Manila Electric Co. B	18.5	18.75	18.25	18.75	1,434,200
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.04	22,346,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	60.000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	10.000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	5.000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	30	29.5	30	509.500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	16.100
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20.000
San Miguel Corp. A	52	52	51.5	52	16.800
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62.5	62	62.5	89.200
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	70,000
Ayala Corp.	4.45	4.55	4.4	4.55	1,098.000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	30,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.038	0.038	25,900.000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	16,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.78	1.66	1.78	85,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.68	0.65	0.67	20,560,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.3	820,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.0525	0.046	0.048	2,500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	16.25	16.75	16	16.75	970.700
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.125	0.13	260,000
Ionics Inc.	1.48	1.56	1.48	1.54	415,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	200,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.017	0.014	0.017	4,900,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	2,100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,150,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	3,290,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.29	6,810,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	0.98	1	650,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.12	0.12	4,100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.53	0.49	0.53	600,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	550,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	48,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.095	0.095	1,400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	12,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	2,770,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	680,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	280,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	32,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,408,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	6,640,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.72	0.74	0.72	0.74	340,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.215	2,020,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	1,351,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	7,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	28,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0034	0.0032	0.0034	102,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	70,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,010,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	27,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	1,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	722.000	26.828,570.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	202.162,850.	236,471.980.00
PRO	12,660,000.	24,648,640.00
Mining	142,230,000	540,200.00
OIL	101,110,000.	833,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	458,884,850	289,322,390.00

Benguet Corp. celebrates centennial anniversary

BENGUET Corp., which pioneered modern mining in the Philippines a hundred years ago, is celebrating its centennial anniversary today.

The board of directors and management, led by its chair, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, and president/CEO, Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez, will commemorate this significant milestone in the life of the company with the opening today of a photo exhibit titled "Yesterday's Tomorrows: The BenguetCorp Story."

Set at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City, the event will feature an inspiring display of the company's memoirs and legacies to the mining industry and economic history of the country. The Centennial Stamp from PhilPost Corp., Centennial Marker from the National Historical Institute and the Centennial Website will be launched on the same occasion.

On the same day, a tree planting program, a grand reunion and cañao will be held simultaneously at the Benguet gold operation in Benguet Province and at the Masinloc chromite operation in Zambales.

In the following weeks, medical outreach programs will be held in the various barangays of Itogon Municipality in Benguet, where modern mining operations began a hundred years ago.

Benguet Corp. is the oldest mining company in the Philippines, founded on Aug. 12, 1903. Its commercial operations started in its first mine and mill facility in Antamok with an average daily production of 350 grams of gold from its 60-ton unit. It has since become the biggest gold, copper and refractory chromite producer in the country for most of the past century.

At its height of operations, Benguet employed close to 24,000 to whom it provided free housing, water, light and fuel, medical services, and elementary and high school education to its dependents.

Over the years, the company has paid out P17.8 billion in payroll and benefits, and P4.7 billion in taxes and duties.

In environment protection, the company has invested P2.6 billion since 1977 in protecting and nurturing the environment and planting more than 20 million trees over 20,000 hectares. It has provided P824 million in services to the community. In the area of education, the company has built over 100 classrooms in the rural areas.

Stanchart weighs expansion options

UK-BASED Standard Chartered Bank, the oldest foreign bank in the country, yesterday said that by the third quarter of next year it would decide whether or not to expand its retail business by acquiring a modest-sized bank.

"By this time next year, we should have taken a decision on whether we grow organically or we acquire. There are persuasive arguments to do either," Stanchart chief executive for the Philippines Simon Morris said.

Morris disclosed that if Stanchart did decide to acquire a bank, then the ideal target bank should have some 20 to 40 branches focused in the greater Metro Manila area or Cebu.

Foreign banks in the country are restricted to having a maximum of 9 branches with the locations of the seventh and ninth branches requiring approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The two leading full-service foreign banks in the country, Citibank and HSBC, have taken different routes in growing their business. HSBC acquired a thrift bank to expand its retail business while Citibank has focused on maximizing its branch network.

At present, Stanchart has five branches in Metro Manila and will open its sixth branch in Caloocan.

"If we acquire another bank, that will be absolutely to grow the retail business, it will not be to facilitate expansion of corporate banking business," Morris said.

In line with Stanchart's global strategy to increasingly focus on expanding its retail banking business, Morris said that the Philippine bank branch was aiming to shift its revenue mix to 60-40 in favor of retail against the current mix of 50-50 between retail and corporate.

Elena R. Torrijos

SEC drafts rules on alternative trading systems

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has released draft rules for the establishment of alternative trading systems.

The SEC is seeking the public's comment on the draft rules, which may be downloaded from the government agency's website, www.sec.gov.ph.

As defined in the draft rules, an ATS refers to any organization, association, person or group of persons or system "that constitutes, maintains or provides an electronic market place or facilities for bringing together purchasers and sellers of securities or for otherwise performing with respect to securities, the functions commonly performed by a recognized exchange or clearing house."

In a statement, the SEC said the draft rules govern the conduct of the trading of ATS' investors or subscribers and discipline them only by exclusion from trading.

Examples of ATS include proprietary trading systems, broker-dealer trading systems or electronic communications networks that are order-matching systems.

The SEC said that the establishment of ATS in the country would change the infrastructure of the Philippine capital markets.

Advantages of the ATS include "increased opportunities to trade, crossing securities without exposure to the market crowd, direct access by institutional investors, lower costs in execution of trades, greater efficiency and transparency."

INTEREST RATES

August 11, 2003-MART1

Rates Benchmark Interest rates	MART1 11-Aug-03	MART1 8-Aug-03
1 Month	**5.9567**	**6.1679**
3 Months	5.9661	6.0286
6 Months	6.9339	6.9429
1 Year	7.9482	8
2 Years	9.275	9.3393
3 Years	9.905	9.9339
4 Years	10.2954	10.3479
5 Years	10.5757	10.6171
7 Years	11.23	11.2196
10 Years	11.7167	11.7607
20 Years	11.985	12.0429
25 Years	12.36	12.4429

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of Manila Jockey Club Inc. accepted the resignation of Yolanda Reyno as vice chair and director of the company. Elected to replace her to the board was Alfonso Reyno III. He was also appointed vice chair.

* * *

NEMESIO Briones was appointed compliance officer of Ebecom Hodings Inc. Briones also serves as the company's executive vice president and corporate secretary.

* *

LORENZO Shipping Corp. denied having any information that could explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.185 to P0.27 per share.

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 60,000 of its own shares at P1.22 per share.

* *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. will have its company briefing for its first quarter 2003 financial results on Aug. 14, 1 p.m. at 32/F, Humility Training Room of Jollibee Plaza Building, Pasig City.

* * *

ROXAS Holdings Inc. bought 1.644 million of its own shares at P1 per share.

* *

EDSA Properties Holdings Inc. declared a cash dividend of P0.01 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Aug. 22 and will be payable on or before Aug. 28. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 11, 2003

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.884251	1.000000	54.638000
Japan	Yen	0.007430	0.008403	0.459100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.417897	1.603500	87.612000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.113379	0.128220	7.005700
Switzerland	Franc	0.650280	0.735402	40.180900
Canada	Dollar	0.635558	0.718752	39.271200
Singapore	Dollar	0.502987	0.568828	31.079600
Australia	Dollar	0.577225	0.652784	35.666800
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.345681	2.652731	144.939900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.235801	0.266667	14.570200
Brunei	Dollar	0.501561	0.567215	30.991500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000117	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021114	0.023878	1.304600
UAE	Dirham	0.240757	0.272272	14.876400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.130900	61.790100
Argentina	Peso	0.302308	0.341880	18.679600
Brazil	REAL	0.295637	0.334336	18.267500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134468	0.152070	8.308800
India	Rupee	0.019261	0.021782	1.190100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.232729	0.263193	14.380300
Mexico	New Peso	0.082974	0.093835	5.127000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.515088	0.582513	31.827300
Norway	Kroner	0.122381	0.138401	7.562000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015365	0.017376	0.949400
South Africa	Rand	0.119980	0.135685	7.413600
Korea	Won	0.000749	0.000847	0.046300
Sweden	Kroner	0.108693	0.122921	6.716200
Syria	Pound	0.021054	0.023810	1.300900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025742	0.029112	1.590600
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000554	0.000627	0.034300

US Fed expected to leave key short-term rates unchanged

WASHINGTON—A key short-term interest rate is at a 45-year low, and Federal Reserve policy-makers are expected to keep it there when they meet today.

Fed officials, however, will certainly spend time discussing what, if anything, they can do to stop long-term rates from rising and derailing the economy.

Only this spring did Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues draw praise for cleverly manipulating market expectations with talk of deflation, which is a sustained fall in prices.

Now, they are criticized for misleading the bond market and causing a big run-up in long-term rates during the past month.

For that reason, many analysts see the Fed meeting as an opportunity for the central bank to correct the botched signals and to calm the jittery bond market.

"We are facing a dangerous situation with the threat that interest rates will go up so fast that it will choke off the recovery," said economist David Jones, author of four books on the Fed. "The Fed has to state more clearly what its intentions are."

At its last meeting, on June 25, the central bank reduced its target for the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other on overnight loans. The rate fell by one-quarter of a percentage point, to 1 percent, the lowest since July 1958.

In response, commercial banks dropped the prime rate, the benchmark for millions of short-term consumer and business loans, to 4 percent. Not since 1959 had this rate fallen so low.

But rates on longer-term loans actually rose after the Fed's action. The bond market was disappointed that policy-makers had not moved more boldly given the Fed's talk about deflation.

A Fed statement after its May 6 meeting cited that threat, leading to a sharp rally in the bond market that drove long-term interest rates to the lowest levels in decades.

The Treasury's 10-year note, a determining factor in mortgage rates, fell to 3.1 percent in June and 30-year mortgages dipped to 5.21 percent, rates unseen in more than four decades.

Then came the Fed's quarter-point cut on June 25, rather than the hoped-for half-point move. Since then, long-term rates have climbed. The 10-year Treasury reached 4.41 percent on Aug. 1; last week, rates on 30-year mortgages stood at 6.43 percent.

This jump in long-term rates has raised fears that a pillar of the economy over the past two years, consumer spending on big-ticket items such as houses and automobiles, could come to a halt, especially in light of the recent falloff in mortgage refinancings. They have helped support consumer spending by giving people more disposable income.

While concerned about higher rates, many analysts believe the bond market will calm down if the Fed on Tuesday is convincing that it is ready to keep short-term rates low for a considerable time.

"My expectation is that the Fed will stand pat for at least a year," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis.

AP

Asian stocks mixed

SINGAPORE—Japanese shares ticked higher in thin holiday trade on Monday while the dollar was steady ahead of a Federal Reserve meeting and a slew of data in the United States this week.

Other Asian stock markets were mixed and US bond prices were flat despite the huge $60 billion sales of new paper last week.

Crude slipped as traders unwound long positions after prices reached a 20-week high last week, while bullion was slightly higher.

Tokyo's stock market was quiet as the annual summer holidays began in earnest and with Japanese GDP data and the Fed's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting both due on Tuesday.

Still, the main Nikkei index was up 0.62 percent by mid-session, encouraged by a 0.71 percent rise in the Dow Jones on Friday and Japanese machinery orders data showing a surprising 2.4 percent increase in June from the previous month.

"This week's big events are GDP and the FOMC. That's partly why we are not seeing any big moves today," said Koji Muneoka, head of domestic sales trading at HSBC Securities in Tokyo.

Elsewhere in Asia, Hong Kong stocks opened higher but Korean stocks were down more than one percent as tech shares fell. Indices were little changed in Singapore and Australia while Taiwan shares were slightly down.

A Morgan Stanley index of Asian stock markets outside Japan was flat.

The dollar was fluctuating in a narrow range around 118.9 yen in early trade, virtually unchanged from late Friday levels.

Reuters

Japan economy likely eked out Q2 growth

TOKYO—Japan's economy likely expanded for a sixth straight quarter in the April-June period, though mostly because of one-off factors related to Asia's SARS virus outbreak and the Iraq war, a Reuters poll showed.

The recent poll of 28 economists produced a median forecast of a quarter-on-quarter rise of 0.2 percent in gross domestic product (GDP) in the three months ended June 30.

Service-sector imports declined because many Japanese chose not to go abroad during the quarter, boosting net exports, which probably contributed to overall April-June GDP by 0.2 percentage point.

On top of that, companies boosted capital spending during the period, seeing a better economic outlook as the Iraq war ended.

Exclude those factors and growth in the world's second-largest economy would have been flat at best, economists said.

"On the question of whether domestic or external demand—which of the two became a drag on the economy—you can say that it was domestic demand," said Shuji Shirota, an economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein who forecast growth of 0.1 percent for April-June.

While the survey showed companies probably raised capital expenditure by 0.7 percent from the January-March quarter, personal spending, which makes up about 55 percent of Japan's GDP, likely was a drag on the economy.

Personal consumption probably fell against a backdrop of deteriorating consumer sentiment caused by the Iraq war and concerns about SARS, even though no cases were found in Japan.

Reuters

Singapore set for slight recovery in second half

SINGAPORE—Singapore's economy is set to grow modestly in the second half of this year as it recovers from the deadly SARS virus outbreak and the Iraq war which hit tourism and its key electronics sector, government data showed on Monday.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry cut its forecast for growth in 2003 to zero to one percent from 0.5 to 2.5 percent, after confirming that the economy shrank at an 11.4 percent annual rate in the second quarter of 2003 against the first quarter.

The government said the new 2003 forecast implied a second half year-on-year growth of 1.3 to 3.3 percent, helped by demand from the global semiconductor industry, which would benefit the city state's electronics industry.

The composite leading index, which points to economic activity three quarters ahead, rose by 2.9 percent in the second quarter after falling by 1.5 percent in the first three months of the year.

"The business expectations survey show that manufacturers expect business conditions to remain steady in the next six months, with expectations of increased activity being offset by anticipated downward pricing pressures," the ministry said.

Analysts said, barring the return of the SARS virus and more unrest in the region from terror attacks, economic activity was on the mend from the depths of the second quarter.

"Zero to one percent seems a little low. There is a considerable amount of chance that the economy will come in at one percent or slightly above one percent given that we are seeing some signs of an early rebound," said Joseph Tan, economist with Standard Chartered Bank.

"I think it will be a little difficult to have a technical recession in Singapore as you have the second quarter already being 11 percent down. It's a very low base to work off," he said.

Gross domestic product—the total value of all goods and services—shrank 4.2 percent from the year-earlier period and against the government's advance estimate of 4.3 percent year-on-year.

The second quarter's official performance was better than advance estimates of GDP issued on July 10.

Reuters

Rina C. Luna, mother of four and diabetic,
on PHARMACOECONOMICS

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Model	SRP	Down 15%	Amount Financed	Term	NMA
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*computed using BMW flex finance, a service of BMW financial services.
**option to adjust downpayment, net monthly amortization and term.

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People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Monster teams with THX to introduce new cable products

MONSTER Cable Products Inc., the world's leading and largest manufacturer of high-end speaker, audio, video and computer cables and THX Ltd., the founder of quality assurance programs for superior cinema presentation and the leading provider of product certification and venue design for the entertainment and consumer electronics industries, today announced the introduction of the new Monster Ultra Series line of THX Certified Cables. The new line of cables brings home theater enthusiasts and installers high performance cabling at a reasonable price whether it is used with THX or non-THX certified components.

Monster Cable, in alliance with THX, has produced this new line of certified products incorporating specifications researched and developed by THX. The certification standards include a series of electrical, physical and ergonomic specifications that guarantee top-notch sound reproduction and premium-grade construction.

"Using Monster's new line of THX Certified cables guarantees trouble-free installation for consumers and eliminates installer callbacks caused by unexpected cabling problems," said Warren Mansfield, THX technical director.

"By teaming with THX, Monster hopes to engage a less technically-oriented audience who cares about great picture and sound, but necessarily the technology it took to get there." Said Peter Radsliff, Monster's director of product development and marketing. "Consumers know both the Monster and THX brands stand for high performance and high value, and trust the underlying technology to be outstanding."

THX developed cable specifications for accurate system connections because cabling is an important element in the signal path of home entertainment systems. Home theater systems, with their many additional channels and components, represents a unique challenge in maintaining the integrity of audio and video signals. A complete system typically includes source equipment, video monitors, a surround controller, room equalization, multi-channel amplification, and at least six loudspeakers. The cumulative effects of frequency response errors, hum and other distortions become very audible in such complex, multi-channel home theater systems.

The new Monster Ultra Series line includes: Monster THX Certified Speaker Cable; Monster THX Certified Audio Interconnects; Monster THX Certified Digital Interconnects; Monster THX Certified Subwoofer Cable and the Monster THX Certified Video Cable.

Monster Ultra Series Cables are available at all Bose Stores in Metro Manila, SM Appliance at SM Megamall, and select audio-video electronics outlets nationwide.

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Miss Photography Girl 2003

2ND BATCH OF MS. PHOTOGRAPHY GIRL 2003 CANDIDATES

Screening was held at the Roof Deck of IPI Buendia Tower last July 13. This beauty pageant is one of the big activities during the Photo and Digital Imaging Expo at Harrison Plaza slated on Sept. 26 to 30. Organized by the Association of Photo Studios of the Philippines Inc. (Apsop). Presented by Kodak Professional, Solaris Film, Canon, Island Multi Industrial Sales, Lights and Camera Magazine, Harrison Plaza, Lyceum of the Philippines, Philippine Free Press and Manila Bulletin.

PHILIP MORRIS RAFFLE PROMO

Harry William Acosta (right), marketing assistant of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc.; Madz Dator (left), account manager of DYR-Alcantara brand communications and Ana Bathan (center), BFAD representative, check one of the winning entries in the recently concluded Philip Morris 100's 'A Taste of New York' raffle promotion. The grand draw was held in the Guaranteed Marketing Services Office at 350 Dr. Fernandez St., Mandaluyong City last July 26. Names of all the winners will soon be published and in posters nationwide.

TERIYAKI BOY FATHER'S DAY PROMO WINNER

Teriyaki Boy, 'the first fast-casual dining Japanese restaurant' awards a Canon A70 digital camera worth P22,000 to the lucky winner of their Father's Day promo. Raffle draw was held last June 18 and the awarding was on June 24 at Teriyaki Boy Restaurant (Tomas Morato branch). Photo shows (from left): Marnie Angeles, marketing manager, Teriyaki Boy Restaurant; Leslie Ang, product development officer, Canon Phils; Alexander Carpio (winner) and Rodolfo Mangawang, DTI representative.

OFFICIAL INSURER OF TOUR PILIPINAS 2003

Providing coverage to cyclists, crew and officials of the 2003 Tour Pilipinas, BPI/MS Insurance Corp. signs as the tour's official insurer. Shown above from left are tour representatives for marketing Adi Culalic and marketing director Jojo Peña together with BPI/MS president Ryuichi Ito and marketing director Herbert Tuason.

Clips

Festival Supermall August events

FESTIVAL Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang takes the whole family to a journey of designs, tastes and healthy lifestyle ideas with these exciting mall events this August. A festive housewarming happens today, with the formal launching of the mall's three tiangge-styled home centers at the Home Decor Center, 4th level. Meanwhile, the Grand Furniture Festival features a month-long mall-wide home and furniture sale and a lecture series called "The Art of Living" every Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Grab the chance to save from more than 550 shops at the Triple Weekend Sale of Festival Supermall scheduled on Aug. 15 to 17, 22 to 24 and 29 to 31. The best local delicacies from different regions in Luzon and sinful chocolate confections from here and abroad are the featured products at the Carousel Court from Aug. 18 to 31. Know the many advantages being offered by different credit and membership card companies at the Cards for Convenience Fair from Aug. 18 to 31 at the Carousel Court. For more information, call customer service at 850-2514 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

TeamAsia holds seminar

STRATEGIC marketing and communications firm TeamAsia will conduct a seminar entitled: "How to Increase Profitability with Customer Equity" today at RCBC Plaza Makati City. The speaker is Nick Wreden. He will discuss the different types of customers in ways that will benefit the company most, both today and tomorrow. For more information, visit www.teamasia.com or call 8765200.

Mansmith seminar set

MANSMITH and Fielders (7222318 / 7236671), one of the leading marketing and sales training firms in the country, will hold a seminar-workshop that focuses on successful implementation of marketing strategies. The seminar entitled: "Marketing Implementation: From Plan to Performance" on Aug. 12 to 14, will be conducted at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. It will be conducted by best-selling marketing author Josiah Go.

Foreclosure: prevention and remedies

TO OPEN the opportunity of learning the financial and other techniques of avoiding, preventing and remedying foreclosure, current and would-be borrowers and lenders are invited to attend a course on "How to Avoid Foreclosure and its Remedies" that will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate today at the second floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. For details and inquiries, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or email at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

NESTLE KIDS TAKE SCHOLARSHIP TESTS

A total of 382 children of Nestle employees took the qualifying exams recently for the Nestle Scholarship Program for school year 2003 to 2004. Some 165 applicants were from Cagayan de Oro, 62 were from Lipa, 91 were from the main office, sales and the ice cream division, and 64 were from Cabuyao. The tests were conducted by the Center for Education and Management.

Feeling assured with Confident

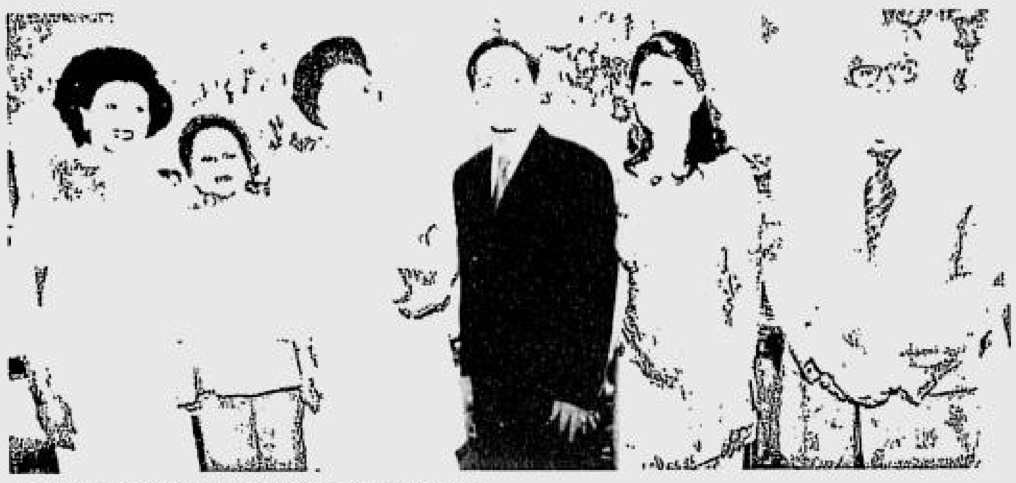
CONFIDENT Feminine Napkins is a breakthrough in sanitary protection for the woman on the go. It has the uniquely positioned "dual side cuff" barrier to greatly restrain side leaks which allow the fluid to be contained in the pad to give maximum protection even to the discriminating user. Of course, what a woman fears the most is having the unsightly stain when her napkin fails her. It also has a super absorbent center for the fluid to be captured to keep you feeling fresh, dry and clean. This super absorbent center has so much of the SAP (super absorbent polymer) component that converts fluid into gel so stains will be worry free. It also provides full channels to guide flows and endure absorption preventing the flow from reaching the edges of the pad and help prevent bunching. It also has a wide adhesive strip to secure and keep the pad in place. Like all Confident Feminine Napkins products, it comes in the individual easy open wrap with the convenient semi one touch design so you can easily and discreetly carry them wherever you may go. Confident Feminine Napkins gives the user a softer touch, with flexibility on the sides giving the user a lighter feeling. It is comfortably thin but amazingly absorbs as much as thicker napkins.

Confident Feminine Napkins come in the cotton fresh and the satin dry variants for both daywear and nighttime use. It also has the non wing and winged variants for the discriminating user. It also comes in the maxi and ultra thin variants in packages of 10's, 5's and singles.

Confident Feminine Napkins also come in Pantiliners that have the cotton fresh and satin dry covers in single individually wrapped packs that come in 20's. It will guarantee all day freshness and dryness anywhere you may go or in any activity you're in. Available nationwide.

WREATH LAYING

The local government of Manila commemorates the 111th year Anniversary Foundation of La Liga Filipina at Dambanang La Liga Filipina, Kalye Ilaya, Tondo Manila. The wreath laying was headed by City Mayor Lito Atienza; National Historic Institute Dr. Regino Paular; Order of the Knights of Rizal officers and chapters: supreme commander Sir Carmelo Gempesaw, KGCR; deputy supreme commander Sir Hans Schoof, KGOR; senior executive assistant to the supreme commander Sir Angel Ricardo Paez, KGCR of Valenzuela City; Sir Mariano Medina Jr., KCR; chapter commanders Sir Kenneth Subido Jr. and Apple Montero of La Liga Filipina; Sir Sonny Gabiana of Quezon City; and Sir Peter Pacheco of La Independencia; Sir Vincent Barreno of Bambang and Sir Chito Villegas of Heidelberg, Manila.



MUEBLES ITALIANO'S 14TH YEAR

The Mantrade Hall was bursting with enthusiasm with about 300 expected guests that celebrated the grand launching of Kevin's Cut Salon in time with Muebles Italiano's 14th year anniversary. There was an eclectic ensemble of opposing alliances, businessmen, politicians, beauty queens, movie stars, fashion icons, ambassadors and other dignitaries. The guests were treated to a first class entertainment through the musical numbers alternately rendered by famous singers. Doing away with the traditional ribbon cutting ceremony, a ceremonial cutting of cloth covering a Versace masterpiece chair was done instead. In photo are (from left) Lolita Mirpuri, Baby Escueta-Luat, Imelda Marcos, Noel Gonzales and Eileen Gonzales (the couple behind the event), and Ambassador Ibrahim Al-Muhanna (Embassy of the State of Kuwait).

ProductFILES

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LIQUID paper is a fast drying fluid that provides maximum coverage on paper. Get rid of unsightly errors with liquid paper and expect what you paint on not to flake off. Corrections become precise and paper documents are kept neat and orderly. Choose from an exciting line of liquid paper correctors: liquid paper multi purpose correction fluid, liquid paper waterbase correction fluid, liquid paper squeeze bottle and liquid paper correction pen. Each correction variant has features that will make paperworks error-free and as liquid paper is now made more affordable, it gives you value for your money. This best-selling correction fluid can spell savings on time, energy and money but more importantly, liquid paper promotes the preservation of paper which leads to the conservation of trees in the process.

FPPF supports Jollibee's 'Say Bee!' photo contest

EXCITEMENT filled the air in historical Fort Santiago when officers and members of the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF) held an assembly and learned about the "Say Bee!" Photo Contest of Jollibee. During the FPPF assembly, photo enthusiasts welcomed Jollibee's "Say Bee!" Photo Contest as an avenue to encourage budding photographers to hone their skills and talents.

FPPF has members all over the country. As a federation, FPPF has 40 to 50 photographers' organizations, professionals and enthusiasts alike, under its fold. The Federation was established in 1987 through a group of photographers that had helped unite seven big photographers' organizations under one umbrella organization.

"FPPF was founded for the purpose of providing benefits and protecting the rights of photographers. It is also a vehicle to develop the photo industry of our country," says Eduviges "Edi" Huang, FPPF chair.

In terms of expertise, the Philippine photo industry is not too far off compared with other countries. The only edge of developed countries like the US, Japan, and Germany is their technological advancement. "Seeing how creative Filipino photographers are, they could always come up with ideas to improvise," Huang explains.

However, photography is not yet as well acknowledged and supported as other fields of art. "We still need to make people aware that photography is a significant art and industry because it is the best medium in recording, promoting and preserving documents or events, as well as history. One photo can convey a message that hundreds of words can't. FPPF has promoted the Philippines in various photo exhibits abroad and we have been effective by doing it," Huang adds.

Huang conveyed her appreciation to sectors that are promoting photography through endeavors like the "Say Bee!" Photo Contest. "I am glad that companies like Jollibee recognize the value of photography. This contest will enable institutions and individuals to grasp the significance of photography in our lives and in our country."

FPPF offers Basic and Advanced Photography classes in Fort Santiago during weekends. Just in time for "Say Bee!" Photo Contest which runs from July 15 to Aug. 15. Professionals may send in their entries under two categories: professional-published and professional-unpublished. Photos with Jollibee elements which depict the theme "Basta may Jollibee, buhay lalong sumasarap, lalong sumasaya" can be entered in the contest. Photos printed from July 15 to Aug. 15 in any Philippine publication may be entered in the Published category. Amateurs and hobbyists may also join in the third category for non-professional.

"Say Bee!" is open to all Filipinos, 18 years old and above. Every photo entered in "Say Bee!" must have an entry form which may be obtained in any Jollibee store. All entries should be submitted to: Say Bee! Photo Contest, Stratworks, Inc., 7th Floor RCI Bldg., 105 Rada St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City. For inquiries, call Stratworks at 751-3805 to 06.

Prepare your camera to capture the Buhay Jollibee and watch out for people who are ready to "Say Bee!" Send your entries now. You'll never know you may just be the next picture of success.

JS UNITRADE SETS HIGH TARGETS FOR 2003
Close to 500 wholesalers, distributors and retailers attended the trade launch hosted by JS Unitrade / Evel, the exclusive distributor of leading brands EQ Dryand Pro Kids in the Philippines. The company projected 3 billion pesos in volume sales this year as part of their plans, programs and targets. Shown in photo for ceremonial toasts are JS Unitrade / Evel officers from left: Ferdinand Adriano, marketing director; Jose 'Pepe' Cheng, executive vice president; and Samuel Po, president and CEO; together with SM Supermarket Inc., senior vice president Herbert Sy and honored guest Koji Yokota.

Coffee chain sets expansion binge

MOÇHA Blends, a coffee foodservice company specializing in Espresso blend, is gearing for expansion as it targets to meet the setting up of a total of 30 outlets nationwide before the year ends.

Company president Florante dela Cruz said there are already five existing branches spread in different areas of Metro Manila while at least nine outlets are now undergoing construction in some parts of the metro as well as in the provinces.

Dela Cruz said negotiations for the establishments of additional outlets are now underway since they target to hit the 30 mark by the year-end.

"We are actually aiming to launch 50 branches all over the country. For now, it will be too early to make projections for the remaining 20 stores. However once that's done - the plan to establish a coffee roasting plant in the country will already be viable," he explained adding they have laid down initial plans for the said plant.

The coffee roasting plant will train interested Filipinos in the art of barista, or making espresso coffee, which has a huge demand in Australia, Europe, Greece, Asia and other parts of the world.

A barista is reportedly being paid $6,000 a week in Australia.

It was in July 2002 when Mocha Blends was first launched in Congressional Ave. in Quezon City. This was followed by the setting up of two other outlets - one in Metro East-Cainta and another in Megamall, a few months after.

The Mocha Blends in Robinsons Galleria was opened January as well as the branch in Morato, also in Quezon City.

Meanwhile, construction of branches in Adriatico, Malate; Fort Bonifacio in Makati; Glorietta II, also in Makati; Eastwood Libis; Shangri-La in Ortigas; SM Marilao, Bulacan; and SM City North Edsa and two others in Baguio (one of which is in SM-Baguio) are now ongoing.

"All these outlets have been acquired through franchises. The principle that we try to live by through this scheme, is based on the Australians' belief of developing entrepreneurship since the latter don't really go for chains. You will be assured that every outlet is running smoothly if it's the actual owner supervising it," Dela Cruz stressed. The establishment of one outlet reportedly costs P2 to P3 million.

Though it will take in Australians as consultants-particularly in matters concerning technology transfer, the company is 100 percent Filipino-owned.

Dela Cruz likewise takes pride in saying that their coffee shop can be distinguished from other cafes for its Espresso blend coffee.

"Espresso blend is being produced through an extraction process where pressure is present. There is this high-pressure pump which drives hot water to the coffee. Nothing escapes kaya buong-buo ang lasa ng kape," he said.

The company has been using "Elektra" - the world's finest 80 percent handmade espresso machine and grinder imported from Italy.

Mocha Blends clarified that though it has been using coffee beans which have been roasted in Australia, said beans were sourced locally such as those produced in Cavite, Benguet and Davao.

Dela Cruz has pictured a bright future for the coffee foodservice industry and said, "This industry will still grow. Those that have been tapped by this business is only the AB crowd. Even if the CD circle have been little by little making their presence felt - their participation and support for the industry are yet to be maximized.

ess Conference

MAKING A CONNECTION
Officers of Nokia Mobile Phones Phils. and local implementing organization Consuelo Foundation pose for a photo opportunity with the young recipients of the Nokia Make A Connection Nurturing Future Leaders program. Locally, the project aims to equip some 450 indigenous youth with life and leadership skills to enable them to effectively relate and live productively in the culturally diverse Philippine society. Sharing their experiences during a recent press conference were the Hiagaonon youth of Misamis Oriental, the Tausug youth of Sulu, and the B'laan and T'boli youth of South Cotabato. More information on Make a Connection can be found at www.makeaconnection.org. Photo shows Nokia Mobile Phones Phils. country general manager Parikshit Bhasin (center); Elsa Ravelo, Consuelo Foundation senior program specialist (2nd from left); Ray Dean Salvosa, Consuelo Foundation managing director (4th from left); Farida Mending of the marketing department of Nokia (6th from left); and Felicitas Rixhon, Consuelo Foundation executive director (4th from right).

Isuzu spearheads testimonial writing tilt

IN RECOGNITION of its valued customers, your responsible partner Isuzu Philippines Corp. pilots a competition for all Fuego pickup owners. Dubbed "My Fuego Story", the challenge invites all Fuego buyers to write down their memorable experience where their Isuzu pickup played an important role.

Up for grabs are cash and parts/service credits. Twenty-five (25) finalists will be chosen and each will automatically be given P2,500 cash award. First prize winner gets a whopping P30,000 cash and P20,000 worth of parts/service gift certificates. P20,000 and P10,000 cash prizes plus P10,000 worth of GCs will go to the 2nd and 3rd prize winners, respectively.

Esteemed personalities comprise the panel of judges for "My Fuego Story" competition. Winning entries will be called in by reputed editor for Speed Magazine Manny delos Reyes, motoring journalist and chief editor for Rev Magazine Vernon Sarne, and respected EVP for Great Wall Advertising Irene Medina-Santos.

Interested participants may send their write-ups plus a photo with their Fuego to the Customer Relations Team of Isuzu Philippines Corporation via e-mail (my-fuego@isuzuphil.com) or snail mail at #114 Technology Avenue, Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna. Deadline of entry submission will be on Sept. 5.

Judging of entries will be based on the following critera: content (60 percent) which is determined by clarity of message (20 percent), extent of role of the Isuzu Fuego (20 percent), interest of story (15 percent), photo and aptness to the message (5 percent); and writing style (40 percent) determined by the conciseness of message (20 percent) and cohesion of message (20 percent). Winning entries will be published in leading magazines and newspapers.

1936
PANCITERIA LIDO
CHINESE EATERY

CONTRACT SIGNING
Don Odil Franchise Corp., franchise owner of Panciteria Lido (since 1936) has awarded its second franchise outlet to Cheryl Ting Enterprise. The new franchisee will open their outlet by September at the Ground Floor, Westlife Place, West Avenue corner Bulacan Street, Quezon City. Present during contract signing are (from left) Annie Go, franchise director, King Si Biak, board of trustee for Don Odil Franchise Corp., Cheryl Ting Yu and Peter Yu of Cheryl Ting Enterprise.

Clips

PRA launches Stores Asia Expo

RETAILERS get a glimpse of the future of retailing via the Stores Asia Expo 2003, the most dedicated and focused retail suppliers exposition in the country organized by the Philippine Retailer Association (tel. nos. 687-4180/81 or 687-4985, email pra@nwave.net, to be held Aug. 13 to 15, at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The 12th hosting of the Stores Asia Expo and its twin event, the National Retailers Conference, have garnered the support and participation of IBM Phils., Oracle and PLDT, Araneta Center, Robinsons Malls, SM Shoemart, Montanara,Bench, Excel Logistics, Hewlett Packard, Penshoppe, official TV station GMA 7, official credit card Mastercard, official newspaper Philippine Star, official radio station Wave 89.1, Adidas, Criterion, Shopwise and Unimoda.

Qatar Airways extends route network

QATAR Airways is one of the world's fastest growing airlines, serving 41 destinations throughout Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Its excellent product and high efficiency are expected to underpin its continued rapid growth. Building on a reputation of premium customer service, Qatar Airways has launched an aggressive growth plan to ensure that it can offer customers a greater choice of destinations, more flights, and the latest in in-flight products and services. As part of this growth plan, Qatar Airways will extend its route network to 50 destinations by the end of 2003. It presently flies 41 destinations. It recently added Manchester and Rome to its increasing routes network, and will begin flights to Moscow in Aug. 13.

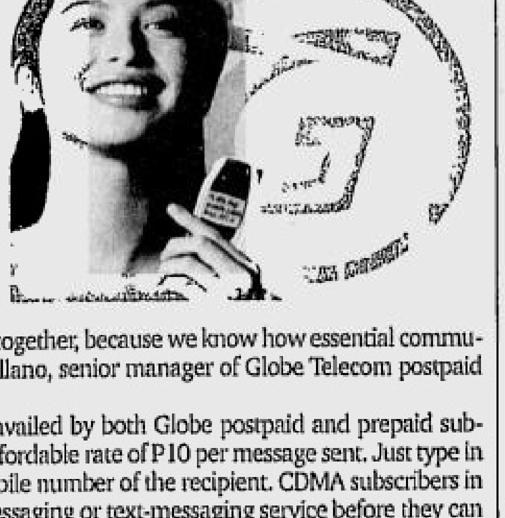
'Amore: Ilaw para sa Mindanao' photo exhibit

RENEWED hopes of sustainable peace and progress in remote rural communities of former rebel combatants in Muslim Mindanao will be the subject of a photo exhibit at the South Wing Lobby of the Batasang Pambansa from Aug. 11 to 14. Presented by the House Committee on Energy, chaired by Congressman Alipio Cirilo Badelles, in coordination with the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore) program, the exhibit entitled: 'Amore: Ilaw para sa Mindanao' will showcase the program's efforts to energize such communities with clean and renewable power to spur livelihood and social services development and thus raise incomes and quality of life. The photo exhibit will present a typical Amore beneficiary community, in which a solar battery charging station lights up households and streetlights and powers a livelihood center and a public calling office.

CIRCLE GARDEN GRILL OPENS
Circle Garden Grill restaurant, the new dining destination of grilled food lovers, recently opened for business in Maysilo street in Mandaluyong City. Aside from serving delectable grilled Filipino dishes, the restaurant provides refreshing al-fresco dining in its landscaped lush patio with mini-waterfalls which completes a cool and country-style ambience. Photo shows (from left) Circle Garden Grill co-owner Levi Ang; Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Carla Gay Balingit; owner Joseph Ang; Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos; Bb. Pilipinas-World Maria Rafaela Yunon; and Worldbex Services International vice president Edward Diamonon during the ribbon cutting ceremonies.

ProductFILES

Globe lets you text loved ones in US via CDMA



AFTER pioneering the texting service to US GSM networks, Globe Telecom offers yet another breakthrough in communication with the latest text-based innovation. Globe Handyphone subscribers can now seamlessly exchange text messages with family and friends who are subscribed to the CDMA network, giving you utmost connectivity to the most number of mobile phone users in the US.

"Bridging the space between continents even through simple means such as texting makes a big difference as it creates and strengthens bonds across the distance. That's why Globe Handyphone has been continuously creating relevant product innovations that bring people close together, because we know how essential communication is to our subscribers," explains Rita Castellano, senior manager of Globe Telecom postpaid marketing for loyalty and usage.

The hassle-free texting service to the US can be availed by both Globe postpaid and prepaid subscribers. You can easily send text messages at an affordable rate of P10 per message sent. Just type in your message and send to +1 followed by the mobile number of the recipient. CDMA subscribers in the US have to register to their network's short-messaging or text-messaging service before they can send or receive messages.

For inquiries on this new service, you may contact Globe's 24-hour call-in service at (02) 730-1000 or by dialing the toll-free number 211 from your Globe Handyphone. You may also visit any Globe Telecom Business Center for more details.

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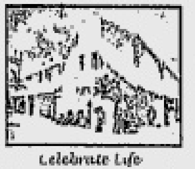

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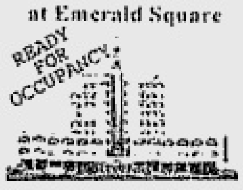

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of CLAUDIO F. HACHERO and late ANNIEA HACHERO has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc.#2567 Series of 2003 Service #2567 under Consul General Jocelyn Batoon Garcia of Philippine Consular Service Washington District of Columbia USA 16th day of July 2003
(PDI-July 30, Aug. 6 & 12, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given of the loss of Sta. Elena Golf Club Inc 'Share#M018B & Canlubang Golf & Country Club Inc. Share#1762 in the name of EDMUNDO T. ONGSIAKO :I no one contest one year from date of publication a new cert. will be issued.
(PDI- July 29, Aug. 5 & 12, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Sorsogon
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

WANTED RURAL HEALTH PHYSICIAN

The City Government of Sorsogon is in need of a

Rural Health Physician

for the Sorsogon City Amberg Hospital.

COMPENSATION PACKAGE

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- Free Board and Lodging
- Renewal of Contract every six (6) months

Interested applicants are required to fax/send their Personal Data Sheet (CSC Revised Form 212). Resumé or Curriculum Vitaé with cover letter and pertinent documents to:

Mayor Sally A. Lee
c/o Ms. Asia Olbes
Office of the City Mayor
2/F Shopping Center Sorsogon
Fax No. **(056) 211-7950**

For details call: (056) 211-1314 Dr. Lee/ (056) 211-4669 Dr. Garcia
Note: Please confirm your desire within fifteen (15) days upon publication.

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Air-condtioning Units (5 Tonner)

All interested dealers/suppliers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the following requirements of the Department, for delivery and installation at the Imus Museum:

11 units Ceiling mounted
07 units Floor mounted (vertical)

Deadline for submission of pre-qualification requirements is on **15 August 2003 (Friday)**, after which bid forms shall be made available to pre-qualified bidders. Opening of Sealed bids is on:

DATE : 25 August 2003 (Monday)
TIME : 2:30 p.m.
PLACE : Room 307, 3rd Floor, DOT building

in the presence of all participating bidders or their authorized representative(s). *A pre bid conference shall be held on 20 August 2003* (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m. at the Imus Museum.

The list of pre-qualification requirements may be secured Room 309, 3rd Floor, DOT Building, T.M. Ermita, Manila. For further inquiries, please call up telephone nos. 5253744 and 5238411 to 30 loc. 238.

The DOT reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein, and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

01 August 2003.

(Sgd.) ASEC. MA. THERESA I. MARTINEZ
PBAC-Chairperson

(PDI--Aug. 8, 11 & 12, 2003)

1.	Car	:	Nissan
	Make	:	Cefiro (Infinity Look)
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	Mileage	:	24,594 km. P520,000.00
2.	Car	:	Chevrolet
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	Model	:	2000
	Color	:	Black
	Mileage	:	17,079 km. P780,000.00
3.	Car	:	Ford
	Make	:	Explorer 4WD
	Model	:	2001
	Color	:	Green
	Mileage	:	10,000 km. P1,080,000.00

Contact person:
Jeannette Cabalu
Telephone No. 925-7104
or 925-6716
Cellphone No. 0917-8490089

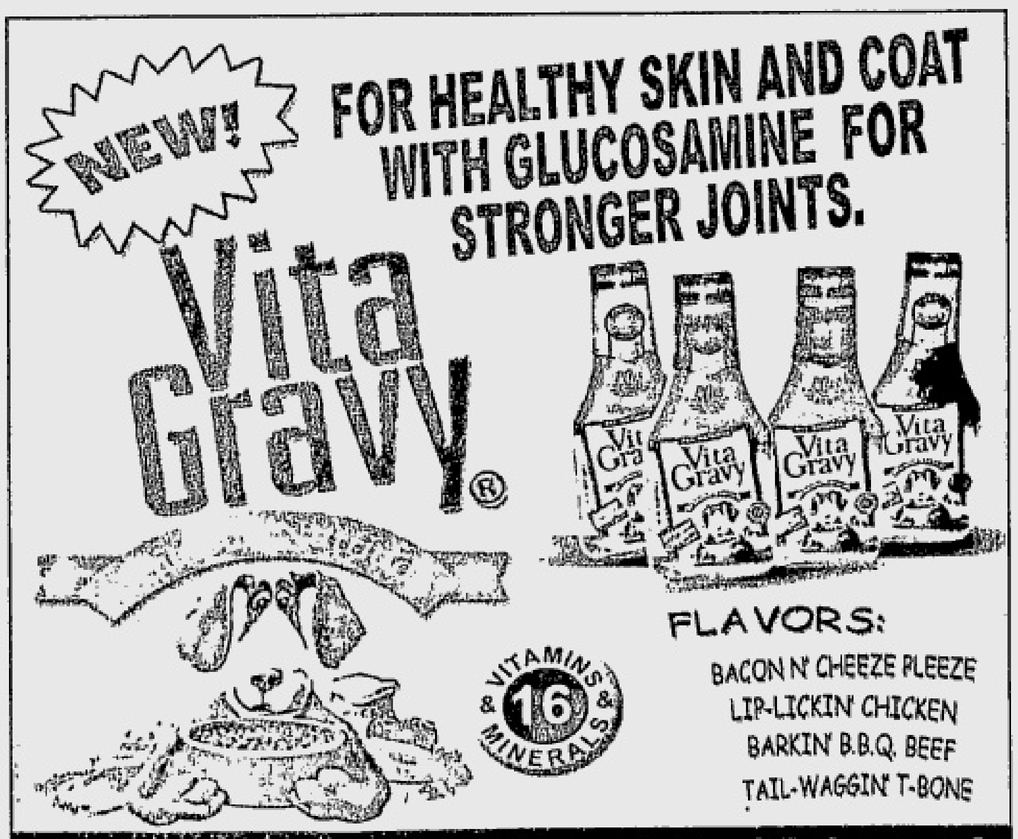
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of IPLUS INTELLIGENT NETWORK, INC. with office address at 21/F Tower 2, Enterprise Tower, 6766 Ayala Avenue, corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New IT Service Firm in the field of Application Service Provider (ASP) with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on August 4, 2003 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 4th day of August 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department



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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification

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TRINIDAD LOURDES DUARTE VILLA-REAL

Former Executive Secretary
of Mr. Andres Soriano, Jr.
Andres Soriano y Cia

Joined our Creator on August 10, 2003
at the age of 84.

We, her surviving relatives, sister-in-law **Ruth**; nephews and nieces **Tessie, Lourdes, Teresita, Ramon Billiken, Henry, Millicent, Abelardo, Antonio, Nilda, Angelina, Letty, Baby, Roberto, Arturo, Jose, Rosalinda, Edna, Rafael, Benjamin, Domingo Jr., David, Tomas, Rene, Elena, Paul, Jean, Edgardo, Andres Jr., Adeltrudis, Haydee, Reynaldo, Racquel, Francisco,** and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Trining will be most remembered as a very strong pillar of the Villa-Real clan, a very loving sister to her twelve siblings, aunt, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend to countless people around her.

Her body lies in state at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish, Sacred Heart St. former Dao St., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on August 13, 2003, 3:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish.

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for You are with me. Your Shepherd's Rod and Staff protect me". Psalm 23:4

L.V.N. Pictures, Incorporated
announces with deep sorrow the passing of

BERNARD P. FERNANDEZ

20 February 1920 – 9 August 2003

Loyal, Dedicated, Devoted Curator
of the LVN Pictures Museum
and Former Assistant Head
Wardrobe Department

His bereaved family, friends, and associates request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Joseph Hall at the Mount Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez Street, New Manila 1112, Quezon City.

Interment at the North Cemetery will follow the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Thursday, 14th of August 2003.

May He rest in peace.

LEONARDO E. DEPUSOY

Died in the grace of our Lord
on August 9, 2003 in Balayan, Batangas

His bereaved wife Naty; children Chito (†), Edwin and Ampy, Nina and Mar, Ebot and Hervie, Babbie and Gerry, Jun and Fredia, Aloy and Rudy, Yeyed and Ding, Joey and Jinky, Malou and Ato; sisters Loreto and Menang; grandchildren, great granddaughter Brianna, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Paliepican St., Balayan, Batangas.

Interment is scheduled on Saturday, August 16 at Balayan Catholic Cemetery after the 2 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church.

In Loving Memory
of the 26th Death Anniversary of

JUAN P. GARCIA, SR.

(October 26, 1909 – August 12, 1977)

Masses will be offered today at the following:

Most Holy Redeemer Parish	6:00 A.M.
Sta. Catalina College Chapel	6:00 A.M.
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament *Valle Verde 5, Pasig City*	6:30 A.M.
Sto. Domingo Church, *Quezon City*	8:00 A.M.
Mount Carmel Shrine	6:00 P.M.
Shrine of Our Lady of Peace, *Edsa*	7:00 P.M.

"The light is shining in your heart,
The wheel of life has stopped
Oh, you who can see into your heart,
What a day,
This is your day."

ADELINA BLANCIA JAVIER

July 16, 1917 - August 10, 2003

LELITA & SONNY AMORES
Jenny & Michael
Ronald & Erin

BOY & TET JAVIER
Reuel & Tere
April, Renoir & Noelle

CECILIA & JUN DELA TORRE
Janis
Lani
Jasmin

join hands with relatives and friends pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment on Saturday, August 16, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

ALINDOGAN 68

(Sister of PJI photographer Raul Guerrero)

Amparo G. Alindogan returned to her creator last August 8, 2003 at the age of 68. She left behind her husband, Tito Alindogan; children Francisco & Analyn, Rowena & Dindo, Vivian & Joselito, and Aldred; brother and sisters Raul & Evelyn Guerrero, Susan & Ely, Glenda Guerrero, Cecelia, Monina and Olivia. Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel at Sucat Parañaque City. Her body was cremated on August 14.

"For by Me, your days will be multiplied and the years of your life increased..."
Proverbs 9:11

Judge Francisco Ma. Guerrero

Peacefully joined our Lord
on Aug. 11, 2003 at the age of 70.

His loving wife **Dr. Leticia P. Guerrero**; children **Dr. Ethelwoldo & Pearl Guerrero, Dr. Maria Larissa & Engr. Nemesio Madriñan Jr.**; grandchildren **Michael, Aica, Jolo & Adrian**; his sister **Wilhelmina Guerrero Rosales**; his brother **Dr. Elmer Guerrero**, their spouses and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremains lie in state at Tanguile Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, inside Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque until Aug. 13, 2003 Wednesday.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

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INVITATION TO UNDERTAKE THE PROPOSED ISABEL, LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, REGION VIII, RECLAMATION PROJECT UNDER A JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENT

The Municipality of Isabel, Leyte (Municipality) is inviting interested parties to submit proposal to undertake the reclamation and development of about One Hundred Twenty Eight (128) hectares of foreshore and offshore areas (Project) along Dupong Bay, Isabel, Leyte intended for mixed use development such as commercial, industrial, residential, among others.

The Project shall be undertaken on a joint venture arrangement with the Municipality whereby the Proponent/Developer shall advance all costs of reclamation and development and shall be paid in the form of land rental or land to be reclaimed.

The Proponent/Developer must show proof of its legal, technical and financial capability and must submit the following pre-qualification documents attached to its letter of intent addressed to the Municipality to undertake the Project:

1. Non-Refundable Filing Fee in the amount of P22,000.00 inclusive of VAT payable to the Municipality in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check;
2. Original copy of SEC Certification of Good Standing/Record;
3. Complete set of legal documents of the organization, i.e., Company Profile for Principal Proponent and each firm and member/s if consortium, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws, and Company Profile, Business Registration and License Papers;
4. Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years (balance sheet and income statement) of Principal Proponent duly filed/stamped received by BIR;
5. Affidavit of Undertaking that if awarded the contract, to provide financing for the Project estimated to be not less than P1.587 Billion.
6. Credit lines in specific amount issued and certified by reputable bank/s and financing institution/s.

All qualified Proponent(s)/Developer(s) shall be advised to submit project Pre-Feasibility Study and Financial Proposal which shall be the basis of award by Municipality of the Project.

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent to undertake the Project including required attachments shall be on Sept. 30, 2003 at the office of the Mayor, Isabel, Leyte Tel. Nos. (053) 337-2053, not later than 5:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. FUENTES, JR.
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–Aug. 12, 13 & 14, 2003)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Security Services

The Philippine Ports Authority invites interested security agencies/contractors to apply for eligibility, and if qualified, to bid for security services for the Port District of Visayas

AREA PMOs COVERED:
PMO-Tacloban
PMO-Iloilo
PMO-Pulupandan
PMO-Dumaguete
PMO-Tagbilaran
PDO-Visayas

Application for eligibility may be secured from the Secretariat, Port District Security Bids and Award Committee (PDSBAC) at PDO-Visayas, CIP Complex, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City on August 18-21, 2003. Bid documents can be obtained after payment of non-refundable fee of Php 800.00 only after having been qualified. Sealed bid shall be submitted to the PDSBAC Secretariat with bid security equivalent to the amount prescribed below:

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 ½%)
Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 ½%)

Deadline for submission of application - August 28, 2003
For eligibility and to bid

PPA reserves the right to reject any or all application to pre-qualify and to bid, waive any defect/informality therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Authority.

(Sgd.) MANUEL T. GORME
District Manager/Chairman
Port District Security Bids and
Awards Committee

(PDI– Aug. 5 & 12, 2003)

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Development of PEA property pushed

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration has revived plans to develop the 60-hectare property of the Philippine Estates Authority in the coastal area along Roxas Boulevard into a multibillion-dollar entertainment complex to be developed jointly with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said the government would like to transform the property into an entertainment and leisure complex that would house not only Pagcor's project but also the new Nayong Pilipino.

"We are considering a number of alternatives including a lease arrangement that will allow the government to generate revenue from the property now and still have a chance to sell it later," Recto told reporters.

The undersecretary in-charge of privatization said a financial adviser has yet to be tapped to determine the value of the land. In late 2001, the gaming firm had offered to buy the PEA property using the expected proceeds from a planned bond issue worth P18 billion.

Pagcor had estimated that the development of the entertainment city would cost about $15 billion.

"The amount will be used to transform initially 60 hectares of the property into something that will capture the ambiance of the United States' major entertainment destinations such as Las Vegas and Disneyland," a source said.

The gaming firm's plan was to lease the property from the government and to let foreign investors undertake the development through a management contract.

The original blueprint for the entertainment city included three mega-casinos, six theme parks, a marina and sports complex, an indoor rainforest, shopping malls, offices and residential condominium, an elevated mass transit system, an educational/cultural complex, a hotel, a housing village for Pagcor employees and even a hospital.

It was also envisioned as the future site of Pagcor's headquarters and the center of casino operations in the country.

Recto said that unlike the previous plan, the development of the PEA property was no longer hinged on the need to raise revenue to bridge the budget gap.

The plan in 2001 was for Pagcor to buy the land from PEA, which was expected to remit some P10 billion in dividends to the national government to augment a dwindling revenue collection.

The revenue-generating plan was pushed back when the government was able to contain the fiscal deficit in 2001 to P147 billion against a P145-billion target.

"This time, the development of the PEA property is not meant to generate revenues to finance the deficit. It is designed to make productive an idle property," said Recto.

Pagcor is the sole operator of casinos in the country.

The gaming firm said the ambitious entertainment project would cover 120 ha of reclaimed property along Roxas Boulevard with an option to extend the development by another 30 hectares.

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BancNet

Using stars to attract vacationers

By Charles E. Buban

A PROPERTY located in the mountains, far from the dizzying lights of the city, is not just a great place for relaxation and meditation.

It can also be a place where one can enjoy seeing stars—literally.

"Stargazing never fails to charm vacationers," according to Edmund Rosales of the University of the Philippines Observatory who also holds occasional astronomy lectures and stargazing at the Seven Suites Hotel-Observatory.

"There was one instance while taking dinner in one of the hotel's verandas, I overheard several guests talking about the outlying city lights in front of them," remembered Rosales. "I told them they can even see much more from this point using a telescope. Stargazing really got their attention and interest," he said.

Viewing meteor shower

In fact, Rosales is leading a two-day stargazing activity, highlighted by Perseids meteor shower viewing at the hotel-observatory that ends tonight.

"Hoping for a clear night, we expect to see around 40 'shooting stars' per hour plus a view of the planets, especially Mars that will appear very big on the telescope this month," he said.

"It is a marvelous opportunity to get people interested in astronomy and what you can see from where you are standing," said Rosales.

"It shouldn't be just schoolchildren who should get hooked on astronomy," he added.

Seven rooms

Taking advantage of its location, the hotel is best known for its seven rooms and seven cottage hotel facilities (that inspired its name), plus it offers its guests with a unique stellar experience.

Rosales brought up the idea of making Seven Suites a hotel-observatory to take advantage of its location which is away from city lights that could obscure nighttime viewing of the sky.

At the third level of the hotel, the guests may use the telescope for stargazing.

Seven Suites, located in Hollywood Hills, Mambungan, along Sumulong Highway in Antipolo City, is the first hotel-observatory in the country.

Affiliated with the Philippine Astronomical Society, the hotel is also a member of the World Astronomical Society.

Days of the week

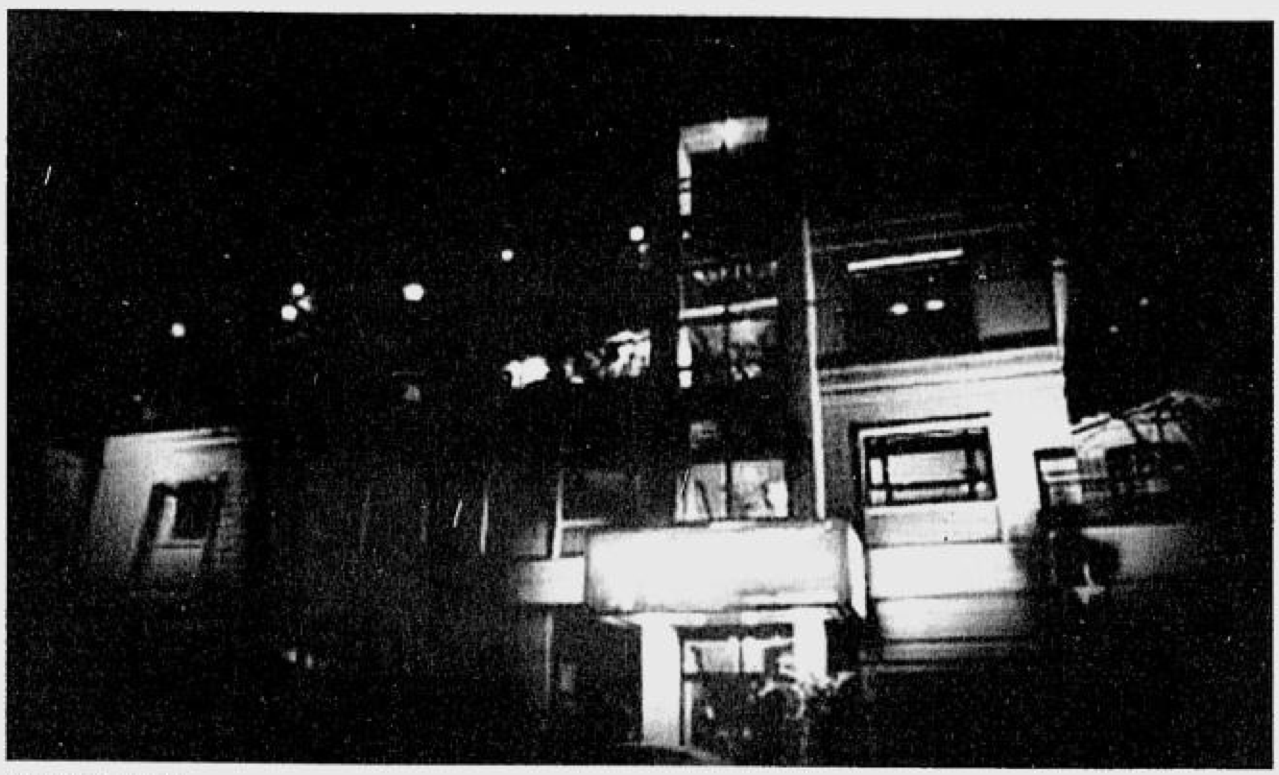
"The seven rooms were named after the days of the week, which if you will remember were named after ancient gods, which they correlate to the objects they see in the sky," said Rosales.

Rosales is referring to Sunday, which is named after the Sun (Solis dies), Monday after the Moon (Lunae dies), Tuesday after Mars (Martis dies), Wednesday after Mercury (Mercurii dies), Thursday after Jupiter (Jovis dies), Friday after Venus (Veneris dies), and Saturday after Saturn (Sabbatum or Sabbati dies).

The hotel-observatory hoped this new concept, which veers slightly from Antipolo's other "after-work-destinations," will entice more people to visit the area.

Here, vacationers can wine and dine or simply enjoy time relaxing while viewing the sparkling city lights and the heavenly firmaments above.

> Stargazing serves as a come-on for this hotel observatory in the mountain



HOW the hotel-observatory looks at night

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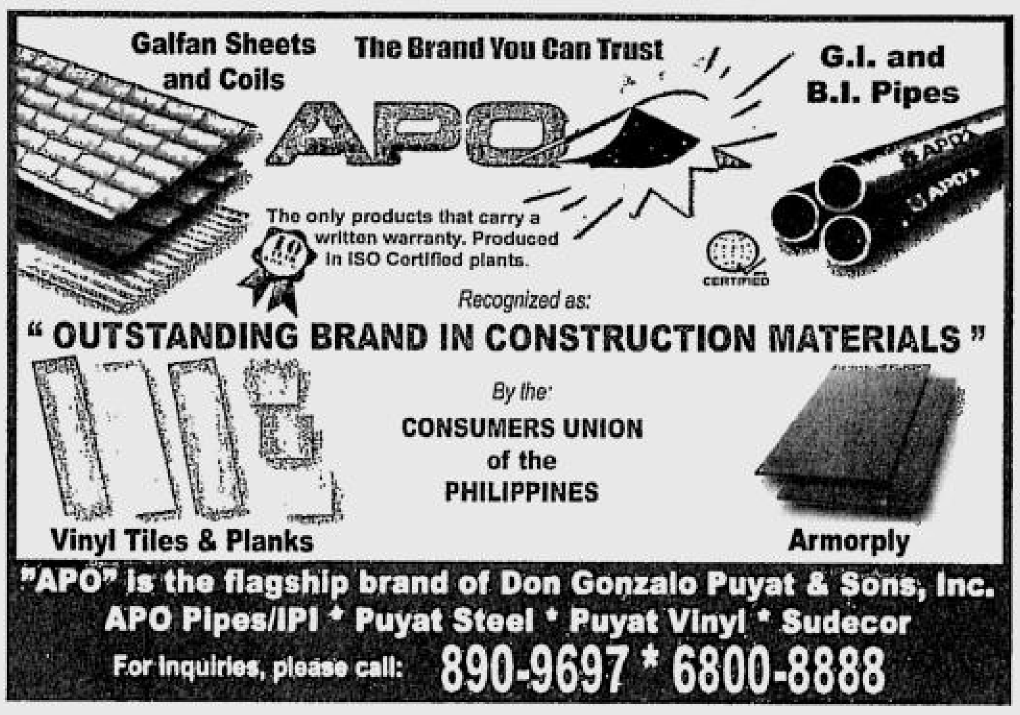
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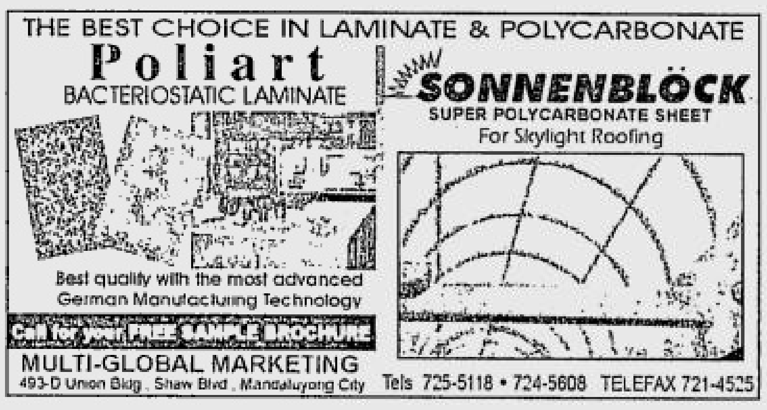
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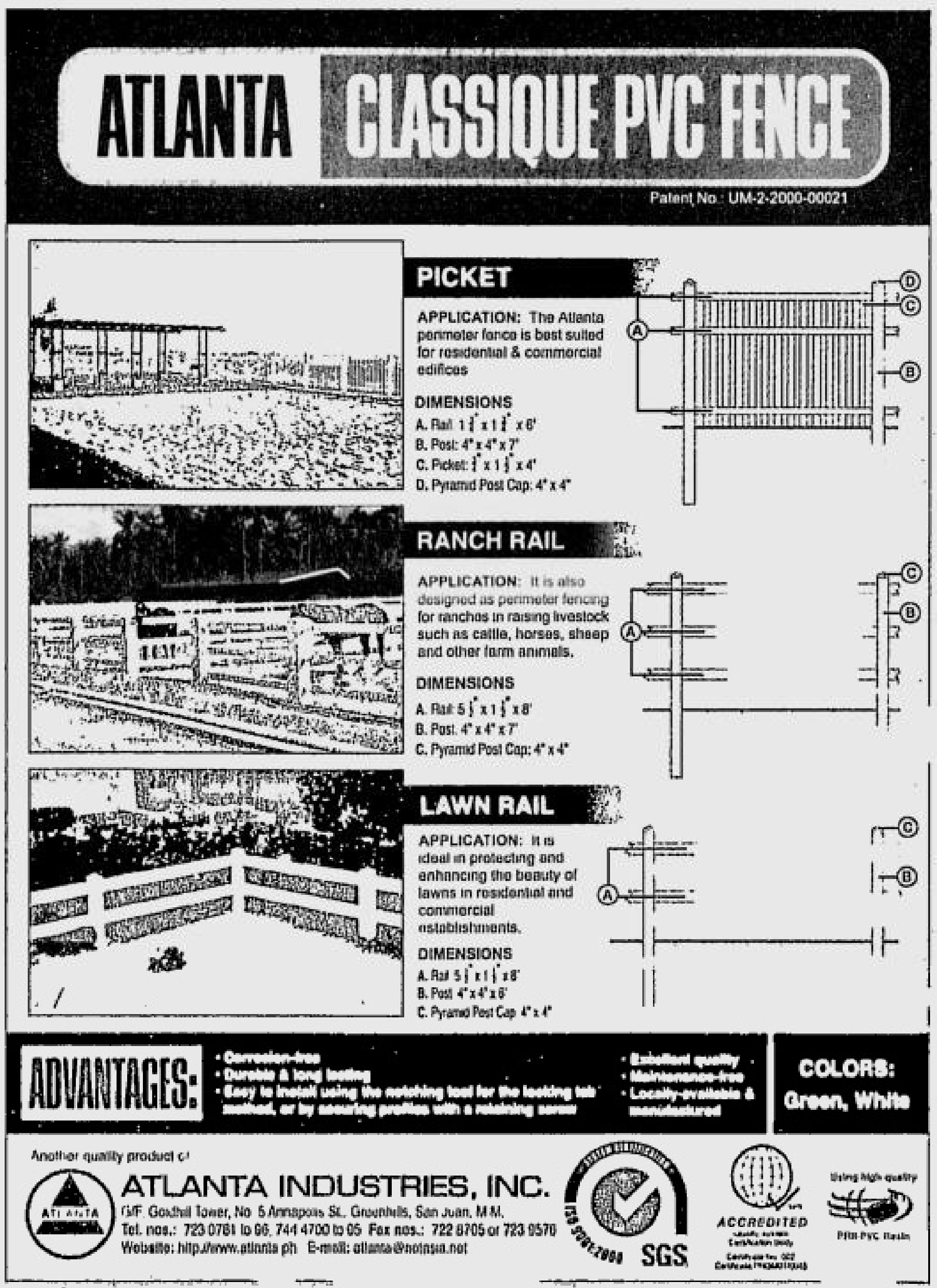
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APPLICATION: It is also designed as perimeter fencing for ranches in raising livestock such as cattle, horses, sheep and other farm animals.
DIMENSIONS
A. Rail: 5 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 8'
B. Post: 4" x 4" x 7'
C. Pyramid Post Cap: 4" x 4"
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APPLICATION: It is ideal in protecting and enhancing the beauty of lawns in residential and commercial establishments.
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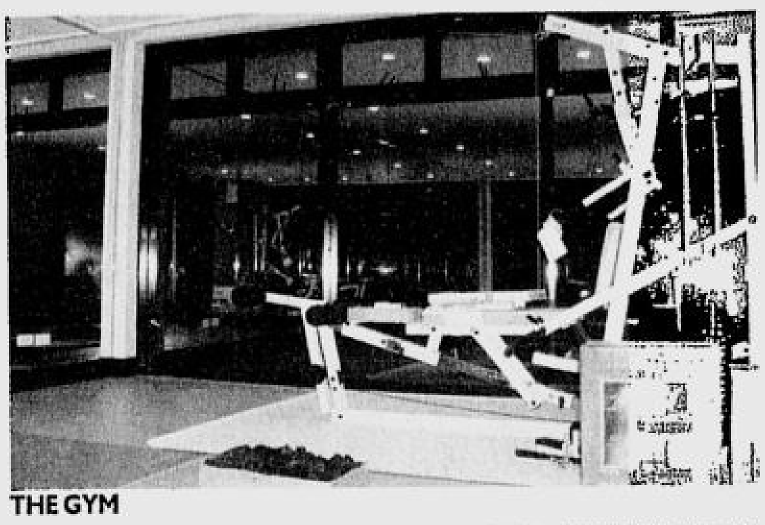
MULTIMILLION-PESO HOME

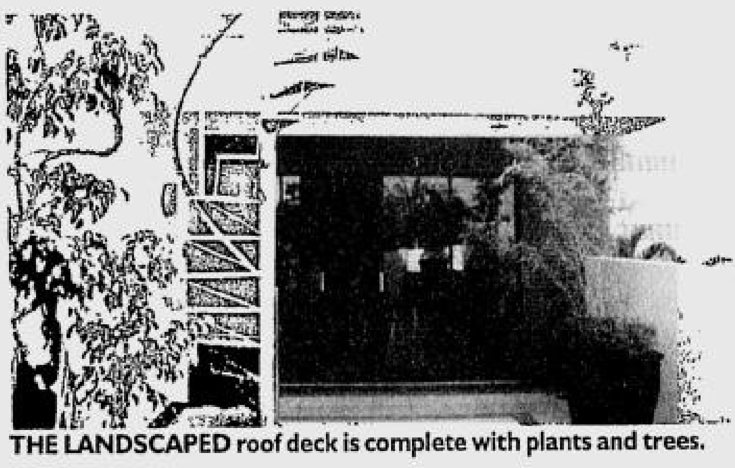
Looking through a high-tech glass house

THE GRAND staircase with all-glass railing

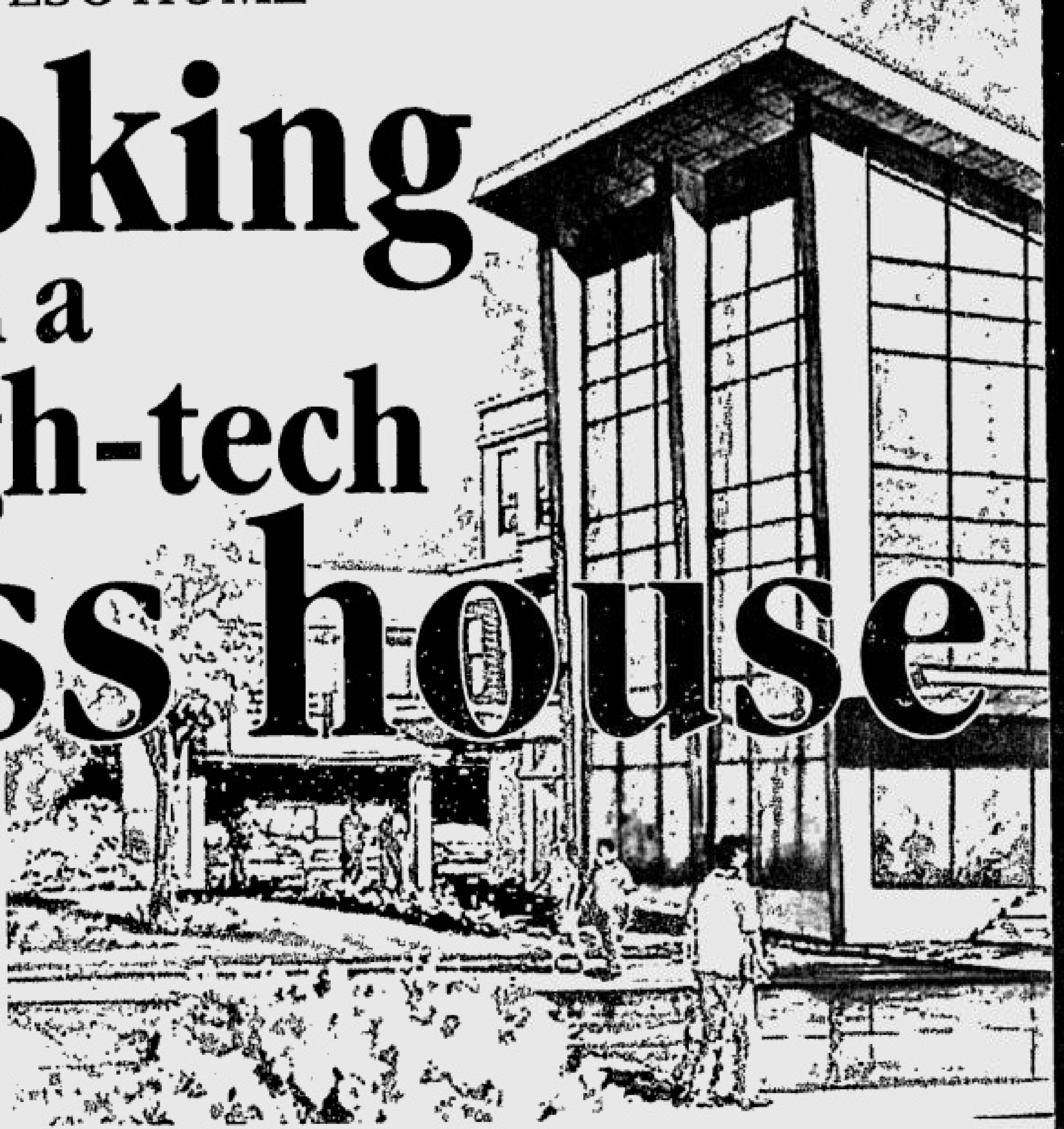


THE GYM

THE MODULAR kitchen



THE LANDSCAPED roof deck is complete with plants and trees.



THE ARCHITECT'S PERSPECTIVE of the high-tech glass house

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT might strain your neck, but gaze up at some houses in upscale suburbs in Metro Manila and chances are you'd find jaw-dropping architecture.

Built with shatter-resistant glasses, equipped with cameras accessed and viewed remotely (via laptop) and a burglar alarm system, a three-story glass house located in Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, sits on a 530-square-meter lot.

P30-M house

The three-bedroom house (with a total floor area of close to 1,000 sq. m.) cost around P30 million and took 20 months to construct. Unlike concrete houses, this one is surrounded with reflective glass from the ground up, with just enough concrete to support the structure.

The glass house has an auxiliary two-story building that acts as a service area where the laundry area, maids' and drivers' rooms are found.

Underneath this structure is a driveway that can fit 10 to 12 cars easily. In a 530-sq.-m. lot, such space has been maximized well, said its architect Gilbert Lui of the Gilbert Y. Lui and Jimmy O. Chua Associates.

Glass structures

Such "wall glass" structures (using half-inch thick tempered glass) are normally used in skyscrapers with structural aluminum to hold the glass slabs together. The glass is coated with a special security film to prevent it from shattering and collapsing to the ground during earthquakes or other destructive events.

The glass in the key parts of the house has been tested to withstand such pressures as bullets fired from a gun.

The house is home to eight members of the household (including the drivers and househelp).

A grand staircase with all-glass railings (handrails) sitting on top of three-inch thick narra staircases welcomes those who enter. There are two staircases. The grand staircase leads only up to the second floor. Behind the house is a common staircase, which in turn leads to the third floor.

The receiving area is minimal in design. It has a sofa and a marble coffee table, and a ceiling-mounted air-conditioning unit placed as inconspicuous as possible.

The glass house features remote-controlled curtains and split-type air-con. Air conditioning for this house is considered essential, what with all the heat-absorbing glass walls surrounding the house.

Dining room, kitchen

The main dining room, with an area of around 30 sq. m., can accommodate 12 to 14 persons. The dining table is made of an inch-thick rectangular glass with a perimeter of pebbles.

The modular or formal kitchen is about the same size as the dining room. It acts as the everyday dining room. There's a smaller dirty kitchen. All the kitchens of the house have complete amenities.

Break- and enter-proof

There's no way to "break and enter" into the house. The glass walls may shatter, but they will not collapse. If intruders manage to break their way in, a motion sensor will trigger the alarm.

All the lights are computerized and programmable, and a dedicated home theater stands in front of class-A furniture. The

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Window shopping in the 21st century

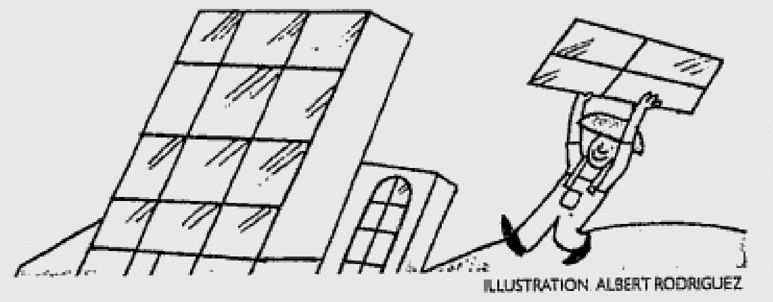

ILLUSTRATION ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

AS EYES are the windows of the soul, so are windows the eyes of a building. The poetic spirit of architectonics is intricately expressed through the windows of a house or edifice.

In the 1660s, Europe witnessed one of the most significant architectural developments of its time, the sliding sash-window. From poorly crafted windows that usually had small openings to ward off intrusion, the invention of sash-window signaled a sharp upturn in architectural innovation, making way for skillful use of timber and metal.

The first version of this type was single hung, meaning only one sash was moveable. This was modified in the 1680s with the introduction of crown glass, a larger and clearer pane that was held together by a more slender wooden or metallic sash. The Gregorian houses of the late 18th and 19th centuries reflect this type of design only that the panes were smaller and the casement thicker and heavier.

In the latter part of the 19th century, the single- and two-pane sash windows were introduced. The demand for a wider variety of casement and sash windows was higher than ever. It was at such time the timber windows with internal shutters and architraves were first produced.

Skillful artistry

Craftsmanship marked every detail of window casements. Elements such as wood and metal gave architects the freedom to pursue estheticism down to its most complex intricacies. This was further highlighted with the crown glass being hand-blown giving it unparalleled sparkling finish. The skillful artistry in which these windows were fashioned exemplifies the golden age in the history of window-making.

At the onset of the Modernist Movement in the early 20th century, steel casement windows were introduced, replacing the timber windows because of its poor resistance to moisture. Along with the alteration of timber windows is the mechanization of the glassmaking process, paving the way for the production of larger panes of glass, which we see now on major buildings and shopping malls.

Prefab building materials

The economic transition from hand industry to power-driven machinery enabled manufacturing enterprises to produce on a large scale at the shortest time possible. This has given rise to the quick-build, quick-fix-solution or the application of maximum prefabricated building materials to keep up with the time-driven economy.

One such building material is the uPVC or polyvinyl chloride, now widely used for sash and casement windows. uPVC has earned a niche among today's architects and construction engineers for its application versatility, design flexibility, high-impact resistance to chemical corrosion, economic value and time efficiency.

Where timber and steel have failed for vulnerability to moisture, uPVC withstands the potential damage of humidity such as rotting, warping, swelling, molding, rusting and cracking. As a prefabricated building block that has a higher design flexibility compared to other synthetic materials such as aluminum and Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF), it enables architects to create windows that are esthetic, practical and most importantly, has long-term sustainability.

uPVC windows are equally efficient in conserving energy due to its insulating properties and multichambered frame construction. The standard dual pane insulated glass provides superb thermal and sound insulation.

Growing popularity

In the Philippines, uPVC is abruptly replacing timber and aluminum casement windows, from residential to business establishments. Eurovek Philippines Inc., a local distributor of uPVC windows and doors, attests to the growing popularity of its brand.

"We have been distributing uPVC windows and doors to residential and commercial establishments for three years now, and I can say there's an increasing preference for uPVC by architects and engineers alike," explains Kristine L. Mendoza, vice president of Eurovek.

As the exclusive distributor of Veka, a world-renowned German-based manufacturer of uPVC products, Eurovek unabatedly endorses the use of uPVC windows on a larger scale.

Durable, cost-efficient

"In this day and age you need to be prompt, especially when you're in the construction business, but it doesn't necessarily mean you have to compromise quality and esthetic value over urgency, says Mendoza. "That's how uPVC windows can best serve the construction industry and its end-users: it is easy to install, durable, hygienic, esthetically pleasing, maintenance-free, energy-saving, and ultimately, it's cost-efficient," she concludes.

The mind-set of each generation is reflected on the technology pervading its time. As with windows, we get a glimpse of life's ever-changing face even before we open them in search of things to come.

Switching to concrete roo

IN A TROPICAL country like the Philippines, it is quite interesting to note that for decades, Filipinos have been using galvanized iron (GI) sheets as roofing materials for homes and even for commercial and business establishments

As a result, Filipinos suffer from the sweltering heat of summer, made worse by the oven-hot GI sheets over their heads—and so much noise and leaks when the rains start to pour.

A few more change of seasons later, exposed to the harsh elements, GI sheets become rusty. This not only means costly repairs and maintenance; the houses and buildings start to look unbecoming, if not eyesores.

While GI sheets may be stronger than native nipa leaves as roofing materials, they are not necessarily more convenient or cheaper. What people in tropical countries need is something that would not worsen the heat of summer, but would also muffle the raindrops when the monsoons come.

No wonder that CPAC Monier roof tiles, when introduced in the Philippines, became the instant choice of the country's leading developers and architects. And satisfied owners of buildings and homes wholeheartedly

Partnership

It was in 1998 when
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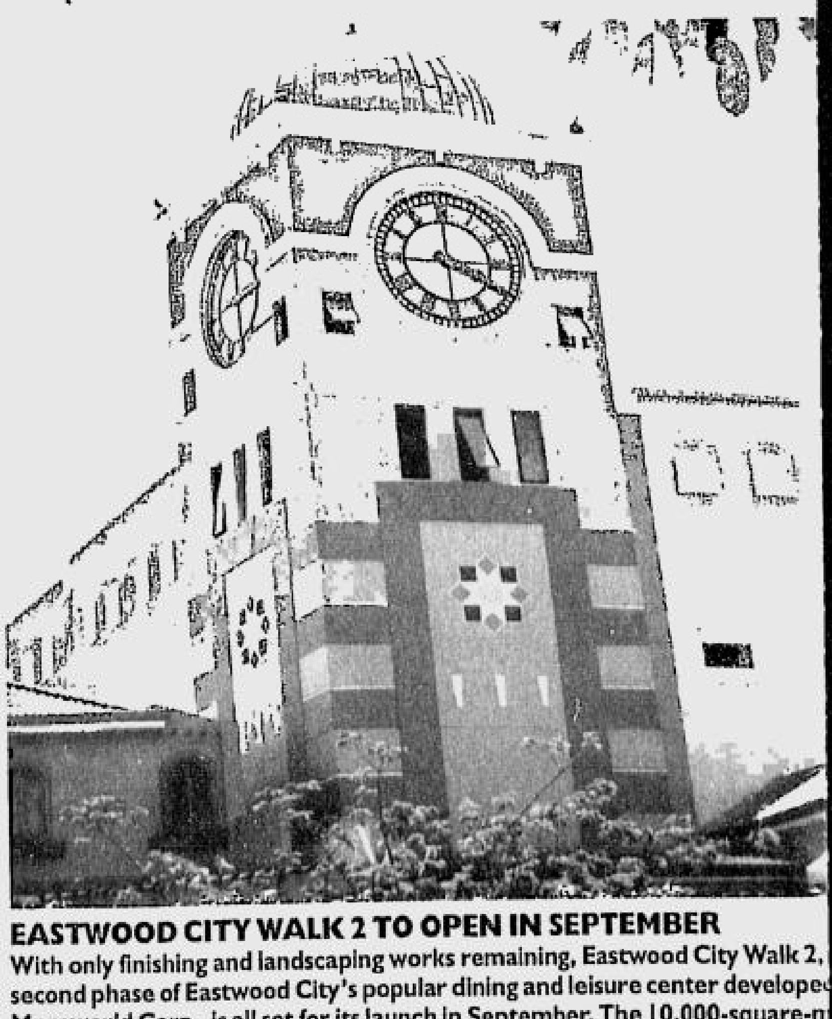

EASTWOOD CITY WALK 2 TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER
With only finishing and landscaping works remaining, Eastwood City Walk 2, second phase of Eastwood City's popular dining and leisure center develope Megaworld Corp., is all set for its launch in September. The 10,000-square-m complex consists of three-level Miami-inspired structures that will house so the best-known names in fashion, retail, dining and entertainment.

Giving hope to needy street children

TULOY Foundation Inc. has been serving as a meaningful refuge for street children since 1993. It provides basic needs like food, clothing, shelter and health care. It also facilitates rehabilitation through psycho-social interventions like counseling and therapy, and values and spiritual formation.

Tuloy recognizes the importance of providing street children a most conducive environment for learning and rehab. After all, it has become a home to many of them. Keeping the environment safe and clean is a major concern, particularly in the school and dorms.

Through the efforts of the RotaryClub Alabang, Pest Away and Sentricon, Tuloy was afforded a highly efficient termite control treatment—Sentricon Colony Elimination System, a product of Dow Agro Sciences, a US-based company and an industry leader in pest control.

Long-term protection

Sentricon provides long-term protection because it works by getting termites where they live and eliminating entire colonies.

Developed according to the natural behavior of termites, Sentricon gives Tuloy structures the needed protection through strategically installing feeding stations within the school building and grounds. Once termites feed into the bait, the process of colony elimination begins.

Having Sentricon will help prevent damage to the structures that took Fr. Rocky Evangelista years to build and this proves to be a welcome convenience to Tuloy's cause. In the future, no more worries about termite-infested ceiling and walls in classrooms, hallways or even offices.

And as Tuloy Foundation continues to draw efforts to meeting the needs of street children, Father Rocky looks into accommodating some 1,000 when the village is completed. He notes that social awareness is ever increasing but the foundation continues to struggle to get funding to support its operations and increasing number of wards.

Father Rocky is hoping like Sentricon, other companies would take notice of Tuloy's cause.

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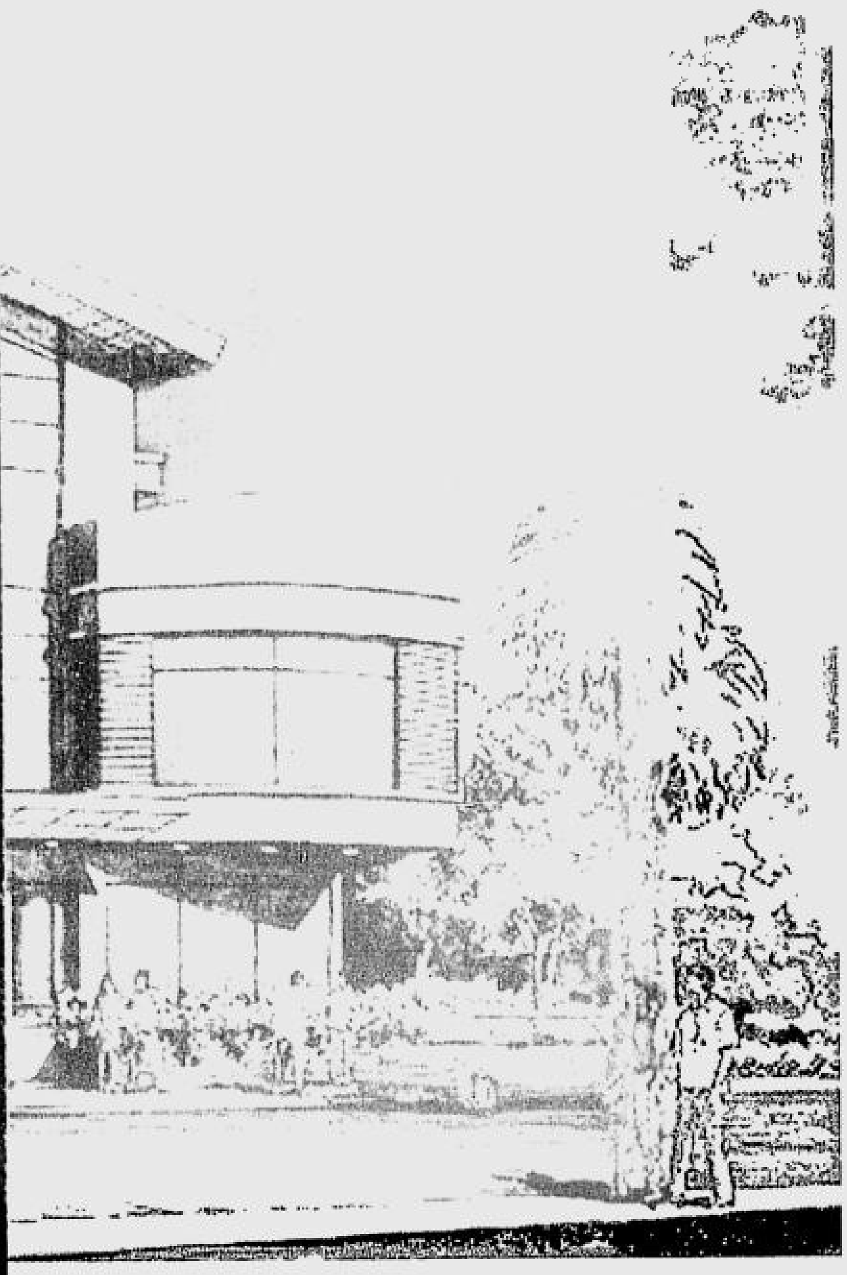

rniture are from Italy.
ɡh-tech electronic amenities are
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d floor is an open area that also
s a recreation area. A small
m is for kids, as well as a home
a. There's a storage room and an
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of the house is made of concrete
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i influenced

le house, said Lui, is faithful to
uidelines.
h the birth signs of the owners,
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door, the master bedroom door,
on of the bed, then everything
ed. The key elements were dic-
ng shui."
ng room on the ground floor has a view of cars entering the garage. There's even a gym, all covered with glass.

The roof lies on a 45-degree slope on one side. The house itself is a monolithic structure, with protrusions in some portions. One side of the structure allows one to see all glass from floor to the roof. The other side gives a view of the stairwell made of reflective green glass.

Lui said he "would live in it if the house were mine."

The toilet fixtures were bought from the Kuysen bath gallery.

The glass house has a smaller version now being made in Acropolis, Metro Manila.

Lui said that his team had a free hand in defining the house. The homeowner made minimal changes.

Lui is now busy with a Mediterranean mansion in Lipa, Batangas, sitting on a 1,300-sq.-m. lot.

(For uniquely built homes, high-tech structures or dream projects, you can e-mail the author at tsalazar@inquirer.com.ph.)

A guide to remodeling your home

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

BUILDING DREAMS

YOU are comfortable with your new home but it's a little worn-out now. You have lived in it for so many years and you are no longer contented with the space that you have. It is now time to renovate but you do not know how to go about it. If you are in this situation, then read on. It is best that you answer your questions and face all your fears about renovating your home.

In renovation work, it is very common that people spend on the things that they see—it can be a new paint job, a new and modern kitchen system, additional closets in the dressing room, a jacuzzi in the master bath, etc. This line of thinking is but natural for we would want to see the fruits of our labor in our homes.

Essential parts of your home

It is very important, however, that prior to any renovation work that you are planning to do, make sure that the essential parts of a home should be first on your list. The essential parts are the parts and systems of the home that you do not see and generally involve the safety and functionality of your home.

These essential systems in your home are very critical for your safety and convenience. Just like a car, it is the engine and the brake system that will keep you running safely even though it has a worn-out body. The essential parts of a home include:

- **Electrical system**—The electrical system of your house might need some rewiring. It is best that you contact an electrical professional that will assess the reliability and safety of the existing wiring system of your home.
- **Water system**—Check if you have water leaks in the system. A simple way of checking is to turn off all the faucets in the house and see if the main water meter (usually located outside your home) is running. If the meter dial is continuously turning with all of the faucets of the house closed, then for sure you have a leak in the water system.
- **Drainage system**—A worn-out drainage system is manifested by ceiling leaks and clogged bathroom and kitchen drains. Have them checked when renovating.
- **Structural system**—Do not just add a floor or renovate the structure without consulting a structural engineer. The existing structure may not be able to support the additional weight of the new addition and it may cause your house to collapse. Termites also eat up a lot of wood in the house so make sure that all of the critical areas, especially the wooden columns, beams, floor supports and trusses are treated regularly and are still structurally sound.
- **Esthetic aspects of your home**—After you have checked the essentials, you can now move on to the esthetics. These include:

—*Painting.* Interior and exterior painting will make your house brighter and look cleaner. This is an investment that will also increase the value of the house when you plan to resell.

—*Windows and doors.* If you think that the windows and doors of your house are worn-out, you may choose to replace them. Making them bigger will make the inside of your home brighter. An added extra of course is that more air will be able to enter your home.

—*Flooring.* You can change your flooring by using new materials that are readily available in the market. Remember though that a flooring job is a messy one and you may have to vacate your house and rent another place on a short-term basis.

—*Interior walls.* You may opt to work on the wall covering of the interior of your house. It can be as simple as a paint job, or you may use laminated side panels or even a wallpaper system that will match the furniture and accessories.

—*Lighting fixtures.* With all of the lighting fixtures available these days, you may want to change them. Prices range from a few hundred pesos to hundreds of thousands.

—*Ceiling system* ceiling system of your home can be changed to suit your design taste. Remember though that similar to the floor, this job can be messy and you may have to vacate your home temporarily.

—*Kitchen system.* This is one of the most popular renovation items. There are various kitchen system manufacturers these days and all you have to do is visit them at their showroom for advice. You may also ask your architect, interior designer or builder to help you.

—*Bathroom.* The bathroom, together with the kitchen is also a very popular renovation item. You get to select the tile designs and colors, bathroom fixture, toilet seats and lavatories and even the accessories like mirrors and towel holders. Be aware that you would have to prepare a hefty budget for the bathroom.

—*Landscaping.* You may want to do it yourself or you can consult with a landscaping expert for your design.

Vacate your home temporarily

In any major renovation job, it is strongly advised that you temporarily vacate your home so that work can progress smoothly. Most builders really cannot work to their best if there is someone staying in the house for the reason that they cannot mess up the place and simply dump their construction materials at the most convenient places.

☑ELECTRICAL
☑WATER
☐ DRAINAGE

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

If you think that you will be saving money by not renting outside, think again for your builder might charge you more since the firm will double handle materials at the site. And also, the workers will work less effectively since they will have to provide protection work for the furniture every time they work. If it is just a small renovation job, then of course you can stay home and do not need to relocate.

You call the shots

Remember that in a renovation job, it is you who will have the final decision on the materials and accessories that you can put in.

Ask advice from your builder and check also the prices that you have to pay for all of the materials.

Having a home that needs renovation is like having a used car that needs repair. Will you repair the engine first or the body first? It is important that you take care of the essentials before you work on to the esthetics.

After all, nobody drops dead with an ugly house. But a house with an old and dangerous electrical system can pose a big risk to lives and property.

(Alexis A. Acacio is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of the Philippines. For comments and advice you may reach him at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph or call 952 0684.)

f tiles makes sense in RP

gree.

wo of the world's leaders
France and the Siam Ce-
—established their part-
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AC Monier concrete roof
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tiles per month, enough
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Bueno, general manager
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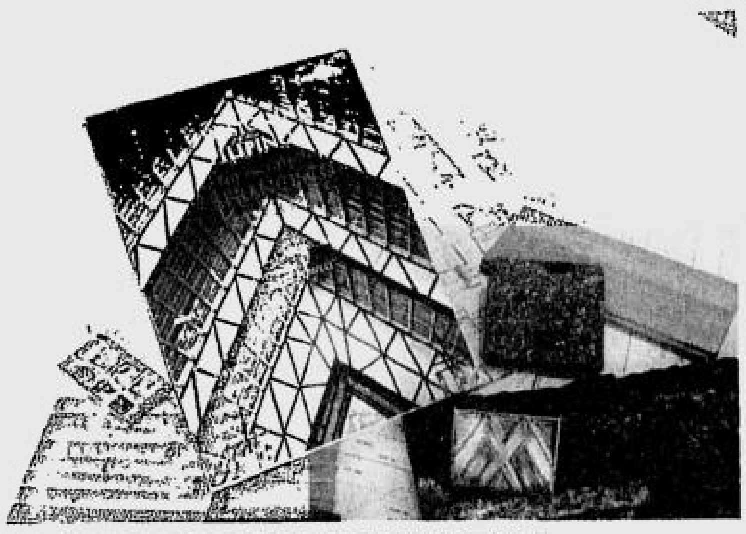
warranty on its roof tiles
performance.
e superior qualities of CPAC Monier tiles to the fact that both Lafarge and the Siam Group of Thailand have perfected the technologies for durable yet attractive and cost-effective concrete roof tiles through their long years of market leadership worldwide.

Market leadership

With such superior roofing product, it is no wonder that CPAC Monier was able to grab market leadership in the industry after just two years in operation in the Philippines, and continues to solidify its hold as more and more developers, architects, builders and homeowners choose CPAC Monier roof tiles over other brands, and certainly over the old-fashioned and rust-prone GI sheets, said architect Arnel Nacor, the company's sales and marketing manager.

Ideal not only for residential and housing projects but also for commercial developments and institutional structures such as schools, churches and sports complexes, CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles come in a variety of 17 colors, and are available through reputable dealers in key provinces and cities nationwide.



A CLOSER LOOK AT RP ARCHITECTURE

Architect Francisco Mañosa offers a journey to the past and present Philippine architecture through his book "Designing Filipino: The Architecture of Francisco Mañosa." Through this book, he will share his ingenuity in contemporary Filipino architecture and his works of art. Distinguished guests, colleagues and friends joined the book launch, held recently at the Manila Polo Club. The book will be available in all National Bookstore and Powerbooks branches nationwide.

Creba organizes int'l foundation

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) has organized the Creba International Federation to draw more foreign exchange earnings to the country and thereby buttress the overall national economy.

This was underscored by Purita R. Soliven, Creba executive vice president and concurrently VP for international affairs. She said it is an urgent response to the international dimensions of the economy by promoting Philippine real estate property in the global market.

"Real estate gets one of the biggest chunks of international investments all over the world," Soliven said. The Creba foundation will oversee the development of international chapters and serve as the chamber's marketing arm abroad.

3-pronged mission

"The new foundation's three-pronged mission is to form Creba chapters abroad, establish business development and strong linkages in the international market through technology transfer and information dissemination and draw up effective global marketing strategies, particularly among Philippine developers and foreign-based realty companies and developers," Soliven said.

It also seeks to provide quality projects and standardized services to the primary target market abroad, specifically Filipino professionals, American and other foreign investors interested in buying Philippine property.

One of the foundation's particular advantages is its being founded by Creba, the biggest umbrella organization of real estate developers, builders and allied professionals and entities in this country. The association's stability and success as an advocacy institution, Soliven said, serve as an impetus to rally the industry in the race for international investments.

Direct impact

Thus, Creba urged the national government to liberalize the value added tax (VAT) rules to entitle foreign currency denominated sales of real property to the privilege of zero percent VAT under the National Internal Revenue Code.

Creba believes, Soliven said, that if only one percent of the potential market of some three million buyers in the United States alone is tapped, at an average price of US$50,000 per housing package, it will bring in some US$1.5 billion in foreign exchange earnings every year for the next five years.

Thus, Soliven stressed, the Creba International Federation will have a direct impact on the country's monetary and fiscal stability, thereby buttressing the national economy.

Trustees, officers

The foundation's board of trustees and officers are Pedro C. Tario, board chair; Soliven, president; Jerry M. Navarrete, VP for finance; Eugene C. Yu, VP for business linkages; Rafael P. Pula, VP for US affairs; Avelina P. Acuña, VP for European affairs;

Rosemarie C. Basa, VP for Middle East and African affairs; Techie P. Bautista, VP for Asia and the Pacific Affairs; Edith L. Manansala, VP for marketing; Teresita C. Millan, treasurer; Adelaido M. de Guzman, assistant treasurer; lawyer Luis P. Pangilinan Jr., corporate secretary; Arsenio M. de Guzman Jr., press relations officer.

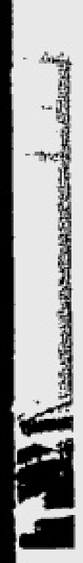
Board advisers are lawyer Manuel M. Serrano, Creba board chair, and Florentino S. Dulalia Jr., incumbent Creba national president.

Marketing committee

Manansala heads the federation's committee on marketing and accreditation, while Creba board director Techie P. Bautista is the committee chair on inventory buildup under the Creba Computerized Land Information Management System (CLAIMS).

The marketing committee aims to source out quality projects for the world market, plan and implement effective promotion programs to widen the network of accredited developers with highly marketable projects.

CLAIMS is a vehicle to improve the security of tenure, create greater confidence in the land investment climate, introduce more dynamism in the realty industry, facilitate investments by overseas Filipinos, and improve the quantity and quality of real estate industry players. Those wishing to enlist in the foundation may call up the Creba secretariat at 373-2265 to 70.



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CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Bank pegs home suite loan at 6%

HERE'S good news to all East West Bank Home Suite Loan borrowers.

East West Bank now offers 6 percent interest rate fixed for the first year applicable to any housing loan program with a minimum amount of P1 million. Applicants are encouraged to submit their complete documents to avail themselves of the lowest housing rate in the country.

Loan repayment can be stretched from 10 to 15 years, depending on the housing loan program. The huge reduction in interest rate is part of the bank's aggressive move to address the housing needs of a good number of Filipinos.

East West Bank offers a full range of housing loan programs depending on the borrower's purpose. LotAcquire is a program for lot buyers while HomeAcquire, HomeConstruct and HomeImprove are programs for the purchase of housing property, building a house or renovating one.

For inquiries on this Home Suite Loan offer, call 8-Access (822-2377) or toll-free 1-800-10-8-Access (1-800-10-822-2377) for provincial areas.

Math of realty investment set Aug. 19

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "Mathematics of Real Estate Investment" at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City, on Aug. 19 at 1:30-6:00 p.m.

Topics of the four-hour lecture includes the explanation and sample problems on interest formulas, cash flow diagrams, present and future value, sinking fund, equal periodic payment and its application to various real estate situations. Participants can also avail of free computerized copies of the table of values of the different interest factors.

Lecturer is engineer Enrico S. Cruz, who is a licensed real estate consultant and a real estate fellow. He has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development and education. He placed first in the real estate appraiser's board exams in 1994 and eighth in the real estate brokers board exams in 1988.

For inquiries, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

PhilConstruct 2003 slated Nov. 13-16

THE PHILIPPINE Constructors Association will stage PhilConstruct 2003, otherwise known as the Philippines International Construction Materials and Equipment Exhibition, from Nov. 13 to 16 at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

PhilConstruct will feature the latest technologies in construction as well as materials, equipment, infrastructure development, land and real estate development, housing and building construction and interior requirements.

The PCA has appointed L.A. Ducut and Co., which specializes in trade exhibits, as event manager for PhilConstruct 2003.

Those interested to join the exhibit may call the PCA or L.A. Ducut and Co. at 873-1198 or 873-8202.

NREA honors member-achievers

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association recently feted its members with outstanding accomplishments to a testimonial dinner at The Legend Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

Honored during the traditional mid-year "NREA Parangal" were Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto M. Pagdanganan, National Food Authority administrator Arthur C. Yap, Pangasinan councilor Benigno B. Gotoc Sr. who is also presidential assistant for political affairs in Region 1, and architect Ricardo R. Poblete, chancellor, college of fellows, United Architects of the Philippines.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando talked on his current program and future plans for the metropolis.

NREA national president Felino A. Palafox Jr. said the appreciation dinner is an annual affair coinciding with the birth anniversary of NREA founder and chair Jose "Ka Pepe" V. Manalad.

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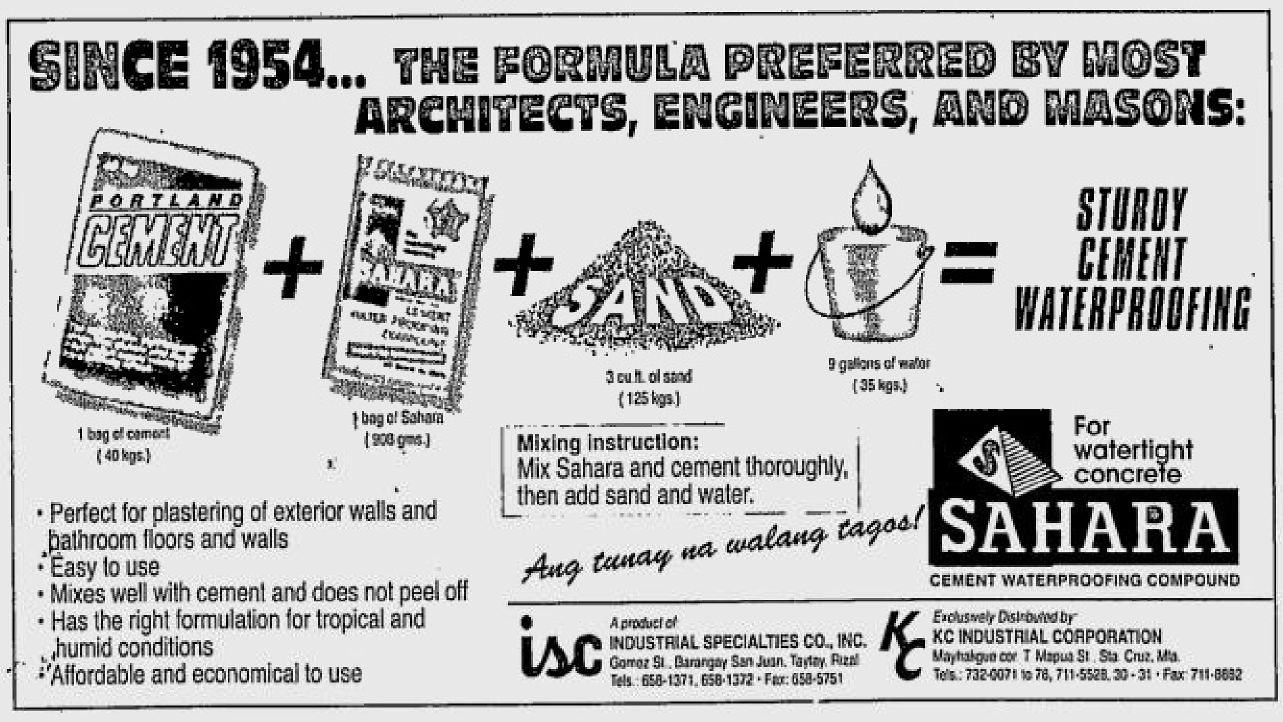
BORACAY REGENCY EXPANSION

New wing to attract more foreign tourists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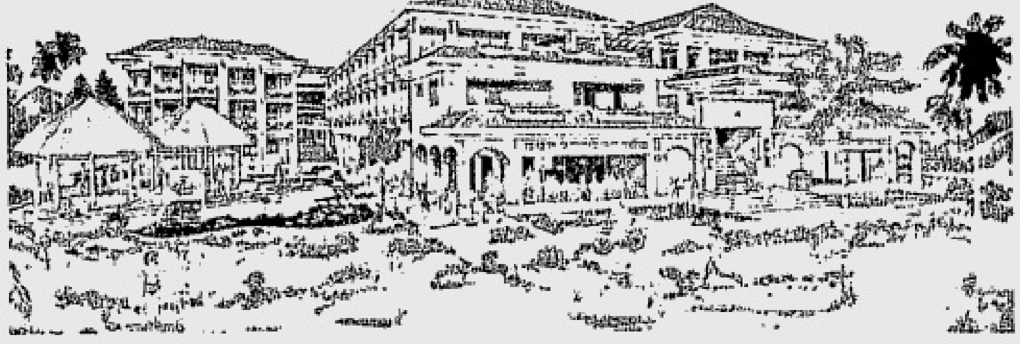

THE ARCHITECT'S perspective of the Boracay Regency expansion

BORACAY Regency Beach Resort, the only AAA-rated establishment along Boracay's strip, starts a massive expansion program to serve the growing needs of its guests.

"Starting October, construction of the resort's new wing covering a lot area of 6,321 square meters will be undertaken to cater to our more discerning and privileged clientele," says Henry Chusuey, chair and president of Boracay Regency Beach Resort. "This signals our commitment in giving them first-class services and facilities," he explains.

More accommodations

The new section, carefully planned to compete with 5-star hotels abroad, features additional 110 luxuriously appointed accommodations, including suites, family, deluxe, superior and standard rooms.

A modern convention center that has a 500-guest capacity will be constructed, together with five function rooms for smaller groups, all furnished with state-of-the-art audiovisual facilities.

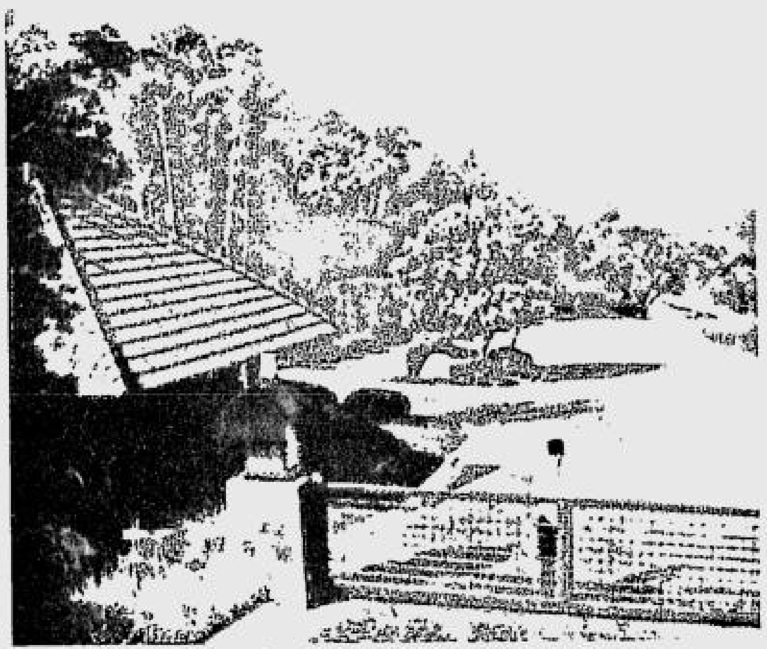
Another highlight of the new structure will be an upscale music lounge and bar planned by top-notch architects, stylishly fitted to be the dining destination of choice of Boracay residents and visitors. It is envisioned to lure many partygoers and accentuate the island atmosphere through a new concept in design.

Pool and spa

Also included in the development will be a new swimming pool and spa with holistic lifestyle treatments such as relaxing massages and aromatherapy. The gym will also undergo a major expansion, with more of the newest fitness equipment and competent exercise trainers.

The hotel's lobby will also undertake a major renovation, as it will be relocated to the center of the resort for the guests' convenience.

The Boracay Regency boasts of 85 luxurious rooms with lanais, four restaurants serving a wide variety of cuisines, kids' and adults' swimming pools, the first underground disco bar with karaoke rooms, first-class gym and of course, the famous Boracay beach which attracts thousands of tourists and travelers from all parts of the world.


THE FULLY landscaped main entrance to Kawayan Cove

Kawayan Cove completes phase 1 land development

EDGE Properties Development Corp. has just completed all phase 1 land development works at Kawayan Cove, its 61-hectare upscale residential seaside enclave in Nasugbu, Batangas.

A fully landscaped main entrance and guardhouse have been built. Wide concrete roads leading to most of the different residential blocks were also constructed. Additionally, all underground electrical, telecommunications and cable TV conduits are already encased in high-strength concrete ducts and will soon be ready for cabling and energizing.

Several 75-meter deep-water wells on a separate property are ready for testing, after which abundant fresh water will be delivered to all 250 view lots ranging from 500 to 2,000 square meters. A massive water reservoir is also ready for water storage.

Down at Bamboo Beach, the centerpiece of the development, the Reception Gazebo, Pavilion and Bath Houses are nearing completion and will soon be available for the exclusive use of members of the Bamboo Beach Club.

Concurrently, the second phase is 50 percent complete and is undergoing full-blast construction. Included in this phase are the balance of the concrete roadways and all underground utilities.

At this stage, the Asian-inspired theme executed by Leandro V. Locsin Partners and the meticulous focus on nature's bountiful gifts are already evident. Stay tuned for forthcoming updates regarding the early completion of this exclusive, low-density residential retreat which is a mere two-hour drive from Metro Manila.

GROUNDBREAKING RITES
Laying of time capsule and groundbreaking ceremonies were recently held at the site of the proposed Honda Prestige Showroom Building on Edsa, Caloocan City. From left are Thomas Ongtenco, Honda Philippines Inc. president Yasuhiro Oyama, architect Philip H. Recto, Don Vicente Ongtenco, engineer Don Lee, Honda Prestige Traders Inc. president Ramon Manzana and Satoshi Okada (at the back), assistant to the president of Honda Philippines.

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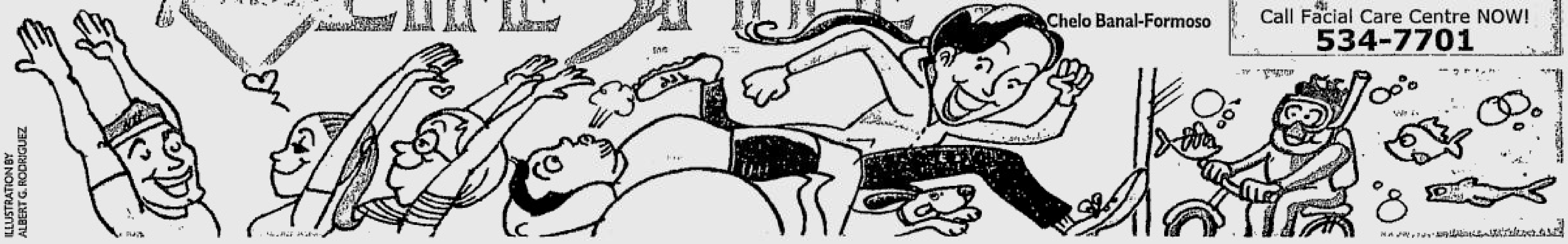

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

What's popular in personal training and fitness equipment

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

PERSONAL training is the art and science of one-to-one fitness training. Gym instructors do a form of personal training whenever they give you instructions on how to use the machines and make corrections in your exercise execution. If they are also responsible for making your exercise program and making changes in that program as you progress along, then they are doing personal training in earnest even if they are handling several clients at the same time. You may or may not be paying extra for this service depending on the kind of gym you go to. Pilates, yoga, dance and athletic-training instructors are not usually called personal trainers, but that's what they are when they do one-to-one training.

According to the respondents of the Idea Trendwatch survey for 2003, personal training continues to be very popular, but because it is expensive (especially since in most gyms you have to pay extra for it aside from your gym fees), two new types of personal training have surfaced due to economic reasons. Partner training (two clients sharing one trainer) and small-group training (three to five clients being trained at the same time) are becoming just as popular as one-to-one training.

Idea says that partner training appeals more to spouses, siblings, close friends, work colleagues and even parents with their children. Obviously, the amount of money saved is also a big factor in the rising popularity of partner training.

Small-group training offers a practical solution for people who have limited budgets but who want to get the personalized hands-on training that you can only get with a personal trainer.

Popular tools

The most popular pieces of equipment that personal trainers use to train their clients are, in order of popularity: Stability ball, elliptical trainer, core equipment like Reebok Core Board or Bosu, Pilates reformer or training tools, weighted bar, and indoor cycle.

Since balance and core training continue to be at the top of a client's fitness wish list, the stability ball is the cheapest and most practical training tool available. The Reebok Core Board and Bosu are just as effective and you can do standing exercises on them, which you can't do on the stability ball unless you are a circus acrobat, but they are bulky, heavy and cost four to five times more.

In terms of the most popular cardio machines for all gym participants, the top three are the treadmill, stationary bike and elliptical trainer. These are the staples that a gym cannot be without. The treadmill tops the list because it is the simplest to use and is just as effective for a middle-aged sedentary person as well as a super-fit marathon runner.

The stationary bike is good for those with bad knees and backs. The recumbent version is the best kind for those with lower-back problems.

Ever since its introduction in 1995, the elliptical trainer has bumped off the stepper or what many people call the Stairmaster from its position in the top three most popular cardio machines, because it delivers an intense workout but it is still gentle on the knees.

Statistics from the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) "Sports Participation Topline Report 2003" were also mentioned in Idea's Trendwatch. According to the SGMA, the top five fitness equipment and/or activities for home exercisers and gym members are: free weights (barbells, dumbbells and hand weights), treadmill, stretching, fitness walking and running/jogging.

Idea made the following assumptions for the reasons behind these trends. Aside from being relatively cheap, free weights are popular because they can be used anywhere—at home, the office or gym. They can also be bought in different sizes to fit different needs. Treadmills appeal to walkers and runners. Some models even connect to the Internet so people can download e-mail while they exercise. Fitness walking, running and jogging are free and can be done anywhere by anybody.

The industry is still waiting for the cardio machines that will create excitement and increase equipment and gym membership sales

Next big thing

According to the experts interviewed by Idea, the industry is still waiting for the "next big thing" in cardio equipment to create excitement and increase equipment and gym membership sales. So far, unless the R & D departments of manufacturers are really keeping things hush-hush, nothing as original as the elliptical trainer seems to be on the horizon for next year.

Maybe they should turn their eyes to Europe for some inspiration. Good friend and fitness colleague, Lawrence Biscontini, attended the "Festival del Fitness" in Rimini, Italy, a few months ago, and he swears to me that he saw people using scuba tanks while cycling underwater. With fish swimming around them, to boot!

I used to joke that one day someone would come up with some sort of trapeze workout machine hanging from the ceiling. Well, Lawrence said he saw something similar and that there were even wilder inventions. It sounds like I should check out this "anything goes" madhouse of a fitness convention next year. Lawrence says I won't get any continuing education because it's more of a Las Vegas-type exhibition than it is a convention, but that I should go anyway just for the shock value. I mean, where else will you see underwater cycling?

The Orthopedic Partners and Pfizer will hold their 2nd Forum on Sports and Fitness on Aug. 30, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Club Filipino. Topics include Latest Exercise Fads, Myths about Children in Sports, Sports Readiness, Sports Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Strength Training, and Plyometrics. The seminar, including snacks and lunch, is free but there are a limited number of slots so pre-register c/o the Pfizer customer service department by calling 864-3757. Look for Sahli Macalinao.

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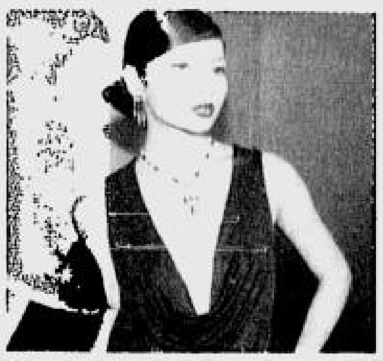
AUGUST 12 TUESDAY

DIAMONDS are still their best friend. Millet Mananquil and Myrza Sison

JEENA Lopez wears a wishknot pendant from the Kiss of the Dragon collection.

BEAUTY queen Miriam Quiambao loves the rose ring with diamond clasps.

ERNIE Lopez


MODEL Rissa Samson wears diamond shower earrings, a windbell ring, and a bead and bar choker with windbell pendant.

CARTIER Far East trainer Jack Lun explaining the concept of the wishknot pendant to pretty Angelu de Leon

Cartier launches Kiss of the Dragon collection

THE FRENCH CONNECTION. Valerie Bariou and DJ David de Barce

BEAUTIFUL faces at 12. Luis de Terry with gorgeous Vivien Tan V. and her husband Dudo Vaca

DJ David and attractive Paula Nocom

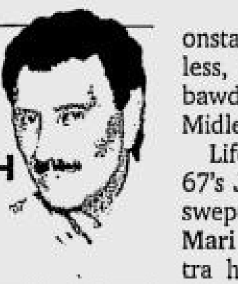
TOP furniture designer and businessman Jonathan Matti with Tara Santos

AUDREY Carpio and bar owner DJ Montano

ABSINTH'S Christine San Diego with Angela Gray

RUSTAN'S director for operations Vida T. Estrella, Cartier PR manager Carmen Gomez, Rustan's director for marketing Marilen Tantoco-Valbuena and Cartier Asia Pacific senior area manager Veronique Brodas

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on Kodak Max

WORLD-RENOWNED jeweler Cartier, which personifies French chic-ness at its best, had a super successful unveiling of its erotic Kiss of the Dragon collection in an exclusive launch at the elegant Summer Palace of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, where excellent Chinese menus were prepared.

Rustan's director for operations and its mega asset **Vida T. Estrella** and Cartier's regional PR manager, *la simpaticissima* **Carmen Gomez**, welcomed the shosen invitees, after which the carefully selected menu was served.

In-demand models **Phoemela Barranda** and **Rissa Mananquil-Samson** gracefully sashayed across the room wearing the pieces from the Kiss of the Dragon collection, which left most of us breathless, *palanggas*.

Dashing in late-ish but never too late was Rustan's workaholic director for marketing, vivaciously fun **Marilen Tantoco Valbuena**; Cartier Asia-Pacific's senior area manager, *tres-tres charmante* blonde **Veronique Brodas**; Cartier Far East trainer (who speaks French like a Parisian) **Jack Lun**; and Rustan's merchandise manager for Cartier, workasonic **Luzanne Manlapit**.

Each piece in this fabi collection exudes the poetic beauty and mystery that ancient Chinese culture is known for, and is further complemented by the impeccable design and superior craftsmanship of Cartier, *naturellement*.

The Kiss of the Dragon collection showcases jewels inspired by the wind, jewels of contrast and jewels of pleasure, as explained to *moi* by Rustan's latest secret weapon, brilliant **Ginggay Joven de la Merced**, no less.

STYLISH southern babe Celine Lopez and Shu Uemura's Tina Tinio

JOEL Ong and Angelie Villaraza

The Wish Knot collection, on the other hand, takes off from the ancient Chinese tradition of silk-weaving. From this skill comes bead and bar chokers, pendants and earrings.

Lastly, the Padlock collection is based on the Chinese tradition of locking happiness in while keeping out bad luck. From this comes eye-catching bracelets, necklaces and wedding bands.

Vivacious southern belle **Jeena Lopez** loved the Wish Knot pendant and the gorgeous wind bell ring, but went home empty-handed. *Moi* jokingly told her, "It'll coast us an *hacienda* to buy those two." "Not one but two sugar *haciendas*," she answered.

Mega editor **Millet Mananquil** drooled over one of the diamond shower earrings, while beauty queen, gorgeous and smart **Miriam Quiambao**, sighed over the rose ring with clasps of diamonds, which cost a cool, cool P900,000.

Cartier's Kiss of the Dragon collection will be exclusively available at Rustan's come October of this year. It's the perfect gift for someone who has everything, *palanggas*.

Cris at Dish

A distinctly more mature, pretty-pretty **Cris Villonco** greeted fans, pals and *famille* at the recent opening night of her two-night concert, "Cris at Dish."

Cris had the work- and week-weary crowd enthralled with her terrific retro renditions of both ballads and more upbeat tunes.

Super pals **China Cojuangco**, **Waya Callardo**, **Emily Britanico** and **Ruth Alferez** even joined her onstage, in vintage costumes no less, to sing "Bugle Boy," the bawdy song popularized by Bette Midler.

Lifelong *famille* pal, Spirit of 67's **Johnny Velasquez**, literally swept Cris off her feet, while **Jo Mari Chan** sang the Frank Sinatra hit "You Make Me Feel So Young" with the fabulous **17:28**, one of the country's hottest all-male acts.

Gorgeous sisters **Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski** and **Mai Mai Cojuangco** were there, as were attractive **Panjee Lopez** and her sister-in-law and Bantay Bata proponent **Gina Lopez**.

Old-wealth, top gourmand **Paz Yuchengco** breezed in with daughters **Helen Yuchengco Dee** and **Yvonne Yuchengco**. Also spotted were **Irene Marcos Araneta** (on a rare night out), southern businessman **Jun Lopez** with his wife, Rustan's **Menchu Tantoco L.**, eyecatcher **Otta Uy Montanola** and **Dot Velasco**.

Dish royals **EJ** and **Tess Litton** and **Philip Cu-Unjieng** were as usual very accommodating to such Cris V. followers as **Marrot Moreno** and **Marietta Santos**, Makati Rep. **Teodoro Locsin Jr.** with his favorite **Louie L.**, interior designer *par excellence* **Maja Olivarez C.** and her bubbly **Rombit Co**, **Cris** and **Gunn Roque** of Kamiseta, **Harry** and **Juda Lim**, plus so many others.

Naturellement, super mom **Monique** and proud sister **Tere** were cheering Cris after every song. Almost stealing the limelight was grandmother **Armida Siguion Reyna**, who stood up and sang with Cris, bringing the house down.

Far from the Reyna table was Cris' dad, top lawyer **Opap Villonco**, who was with his gang.

When Cris belted out that sentimental song, "Smile," almost everyone sang along with her, including **Bambina Olivarez Wise**, who couldn't stop admiring Cris' voice.

"This girl is made-to-order for Broadway. She's got a Broadway star's voice!" she said, as she sat with PR whiz **Bonjing Bolinao**.

Yes, *palanggas*, we all left Dish with a smile, thanks to a wonderful evening with Cris V.

The second night is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 14, dahlings. Check her out! You won't regret it, promise.

Rockin' Resto 12

Many of those who went to the recent one-night Louie Y's at the Hyatt dashed over to hip man **Elbert Cuenca**'s Restaurant 12 in Makati afterwards.

Well, Resto 12 was jumping, *palanggas*, thanks to the irresistibly eclectic music of that world-renowned DJ, **David de Barce**. "He's so cute," sighed most of the babes that night.

After a much-needed week-long rest at Boracay, the French-by-way-of Barcelona David, with his new super tan (natch!), was given a very Filipino farewell bash by his hosts, partymeisters BBC, again at Restaurant 12.

That can only mean good eating, superbly created by no less than guest chef for August, vivaciously talented **Tina Pamintuan**.

The superb chow was accompanied by flowing drinks (kudos to bar host Bombay Sapphire), a real cool crowd, a great fun atmosphere and smoke-free air! Hurray!

Dudes on the prowl that night included **Adrian Cuenca** and **Raymond Rufino**, **Marcel Crespo**, **Anton Ramos** and **Eric Chan**.

Delicious lookers in attendance were eyecatchers **Valerie Barion**, **Vivien Tan**, **Angela Gray**, **Paula Nocom**, who somehow always has the best-looking men around her, and Ms Style herself, **Celine Lopez**.

CRIS Villonco performing popular retro music at Dish

GINA Lopez chats with Techie Velasquez and Evelyn Lim Forbes.

THE CHANS. Mary Ann Ansaldo Chan with Nene Chan and renowned balladeer Jose Mari Chan

RESTAURANT 12's top man Elbert Cuenca and DJ of the hour David de Barce

SITTING it out. Ipe Cruz, Philip Cu-Unjieng and Patrick Reyno

ABSOLUT'S red-haired Peter Wijk with Vodka's black-haired Leah Caringal

GORGEOUS SISTERS. China, Mai-mai and Mikee Cojuangco

TOP PR women Bonjin Bolinao and Susan Joven with Bambina Olivarez Wise

ANA Ugarte and Josephine Knox

FAMILLE bonding. Tere and dad Opap Villonco

LOVERS on a night out. Rustan's latest wonder gal Ginggay Joven and her husband Noel dela Merced

Choices made in past lives affect the present

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

IN MY COLUMN on July 22 about free choice and predestination, I made it clear I was merely expressing my own opinion or belief without imposing it on others. Any one is free to accept or reject such an opinion.

Perhaps, I really should have explained more clearly the basis for my statement that "God does not punish or reward us; we punish or reward ourselves" by the choices we make. It's just that I don't want to engage in fruitless religious debates. If your religion teaches a different belief from what I stated, then follow your own religion.

I have no intention of converting people to my own belief system. That's none of my business. My opinion on the matter was sought by a reader. I simply complied with that request. So, there is no point in arguing either for or against it. As far as that reader who asked the question on free will was concerned, she told me she was very happy with my reply and it clarified a great deal of questions she had been asking herself for a long time. Remember, she was a former Catholic nun!

Rey Galang, another reader, was intrigued by my statement that, "we choose the date and time of our death." He said that may be true if one decides to commit suicide, or engage the police in a gun battle, etc. "Except in those cases," he asked, "how can we possibly choose the date and time of our death?"

The reason it is so difficult to answer this question is that we are talking here of different levels of consciousness. The choice I speak of is often done not consciously but subconsciously. However, according to esoteric philosophy and belief, one month before a person dies, the soul already knows he or she will die. That's why we hear many stories of people suddenly saying goodbye to friends or relatives or getting insurance policy, etc., and a few days or weeks afterwards, that person dies.

Life choices

If we look at our life choices from the purely intellectual or conscious level and from our present life time alone, then we miss the whole point of what I was trying to convey in that column. I agree it won't make much sense to many.

Perhaps the following questions by reader Ed Cano will help clarify some of the points I was trying to make here:

1. "Are our present lives affected by choices made by ourselves in a past life? Is it possible to determine one's past life to better understand oneself? How?"

The answer to your first question is a big yes. You are what you are today because of choices you made in past incarnations. Most of the people you meet in this lifetime are those you've already met in past lives. The reason you are meeting them again is for both of you to work out your karma with each other. We are all given another chance and still another to correct our past mistakes. You can, of course, choose to ignore these and refuse to change, in which case you are bound to repeat the same pattern of life until you learn your lesson.

As to your other question, the answer is also yes. It is possible to know one's past reincarnations. There are at least half a dozen methods to determine one's past lives, assuming he or she has one. The most popular is through hypnotic regression. But then this should be done only by a competent and fully trained hypnotherapist, not by a stage entertainer or fortune teller or psychic who has no training in scientific hypnosis.

2. "Given that we are free to choose the circumstances of our lives, how do we change our circumstances? How do we start? And how do we know we are on the right track?"

Wow! I hope I can summarize the answers in a few sentences. We cannot change the past. We can only change the present. By seeing and understanding the past choices we had made, we can make corrections in the present life. Example, a mother had four children, but she hated the second child without any reason. She would shout at him and punish him for the slightest mistake. She did not feel that way with the other children. She was feeling guilty and couldn't understand her very negative feelings toward this second child.

During hypnotic regression in my class on Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation, she found herself as a slave in Africa many centuries ago. There was a slave master who was very cruel to them and would punish them for the slightest mistake or infraction. She hated that slave master so much she vowed to hate him forever and will never forgive him. Now, that slave master has come back as her own son! She has now the opportunity either to make her revenge and continue to hate him, or forgive him and learn to love him. She chose the latter. Now she is in good terms with her second child.

Breaking the cycle

How do you know if you are on the right track? By knowing the karma you incurred with other people.

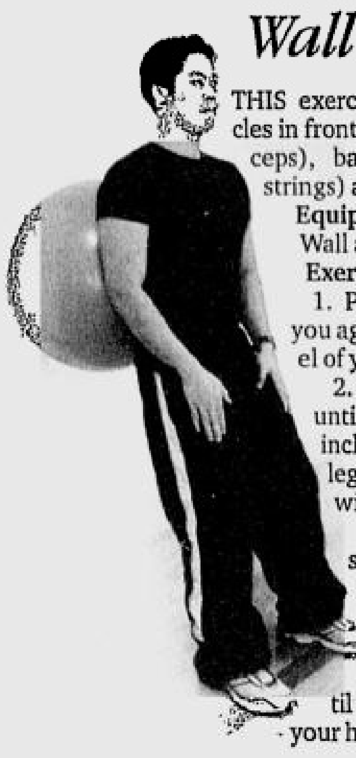
3. "Zen teaches that by being conscious of our thoughts we can break the cycle of cause and effect, or if not necessarily break, predispose us to change our circumstances, by first changing our thought patterns. Is this true?"

To a certain extent, yes. Being conscious of one's thoughts alone, however, is not sufficient to break karmic effects. However, by understanding how the karma was created and by embracing it fully, then the cycle can be broken. The only way to break a karma is to see it and understand it on a deep or soul level. By rising beyond the ordinary consciousness, which certain Zen masters are able to do, they become aware of the causes and effects of their decisions or choices in the past and thereby render their karmic consequences moot or academic. Or put in another way, its energy dissipates. There is no longer a need for the karma to exist because it has already been understood on a soul level, and that understanding dissolves karma. For further details of this concept, please refer to my book "Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation."

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City; tel. nos. 8107245 or 8926806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

–EXERCISE OF THE WEEK–

Wall squat with stability ball



THIS exercise strengthens muscles in front of the thighs (quadriceps), back of thighs (hamstrings) and buttocks.

Equipment:

Wall and stability ball

Exercise technique:

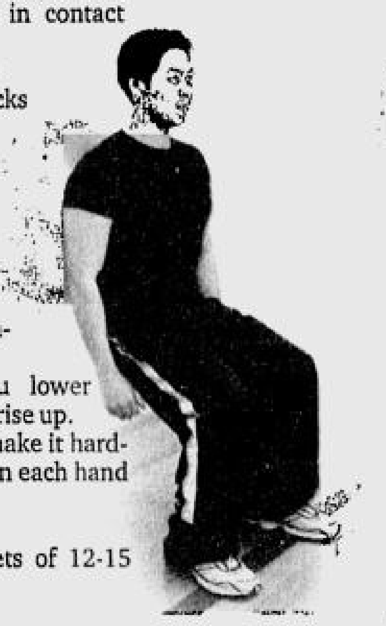
1. Place the ball behind you against a wall at the level of your lower back.
2. Walk your feet away until you are leaning at an incline into the ball. Your legs should be shoulder-width apart.
3. Keeping your back straight, slide down the wall allowing the ball to roll upwards to your upper back. Bend your knees until they are even with your hips.
4. Slowly straighten your legs and return to starting position, keeping lower back in contact with the ball.

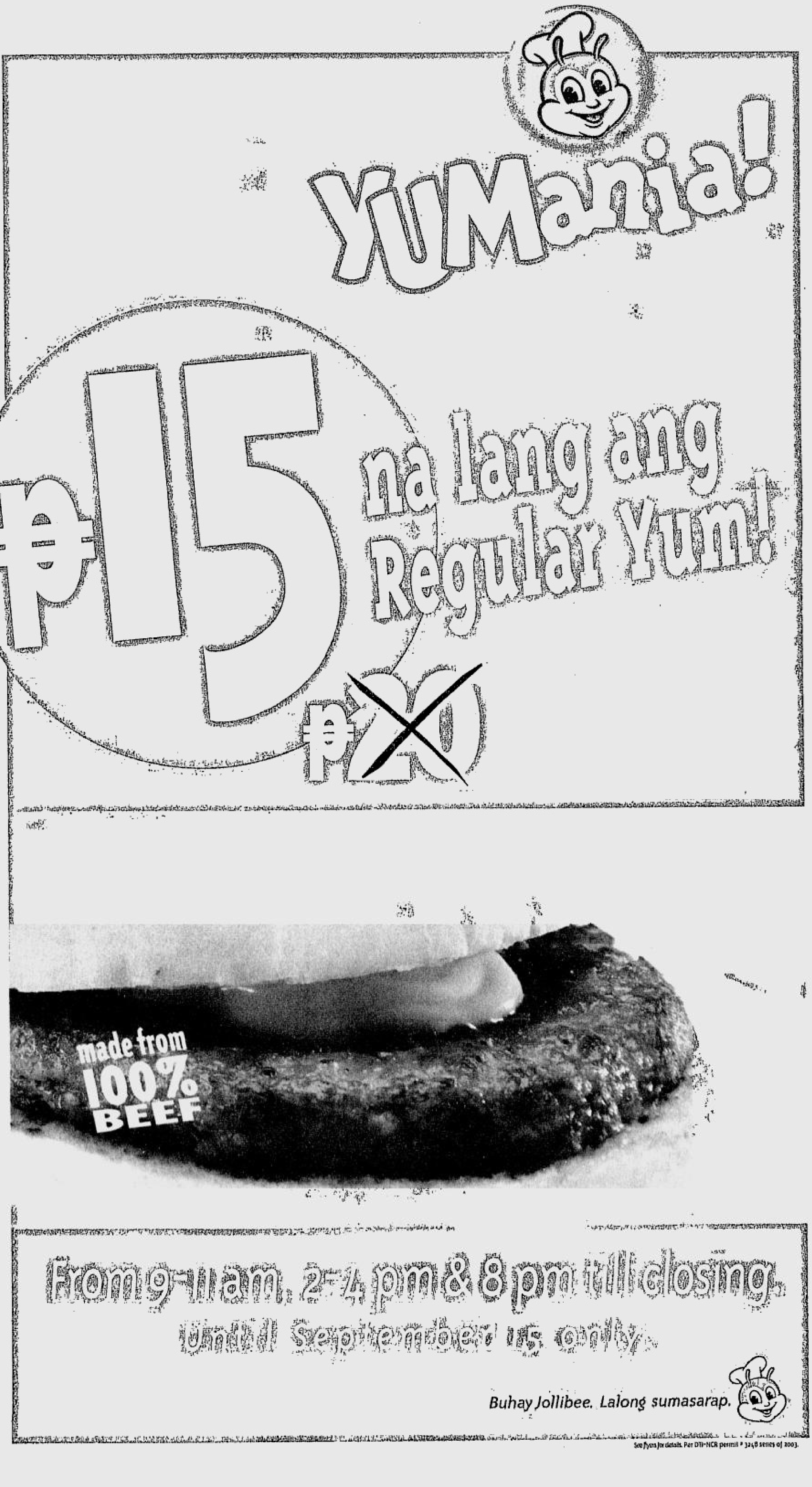
Performance tips:

1. Squeeze buttocks as you straighten legs and return to starting position.
2. Keep your weight evenly distributed over your feet, not your heels, throughout the exercise.
3. Inhale as you lower down; exhale as you rise up.
4. If you want to make it harder, carry a dumbbell in each hand at your shoulders.

Repetitions:

Do one to two sets of 12-15 repetitions each.

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Basketball campaign captures Filipinos' passion for sports

TO CELEBRATE the Filipinos' passion for basketball, Nike has launched its latest television commercial for Maximum Potential, a basketball campaign, which concludes in a series of workshops, competitions and coaching clinics.

The campaign shows visually digitized players involved in a spirited game.

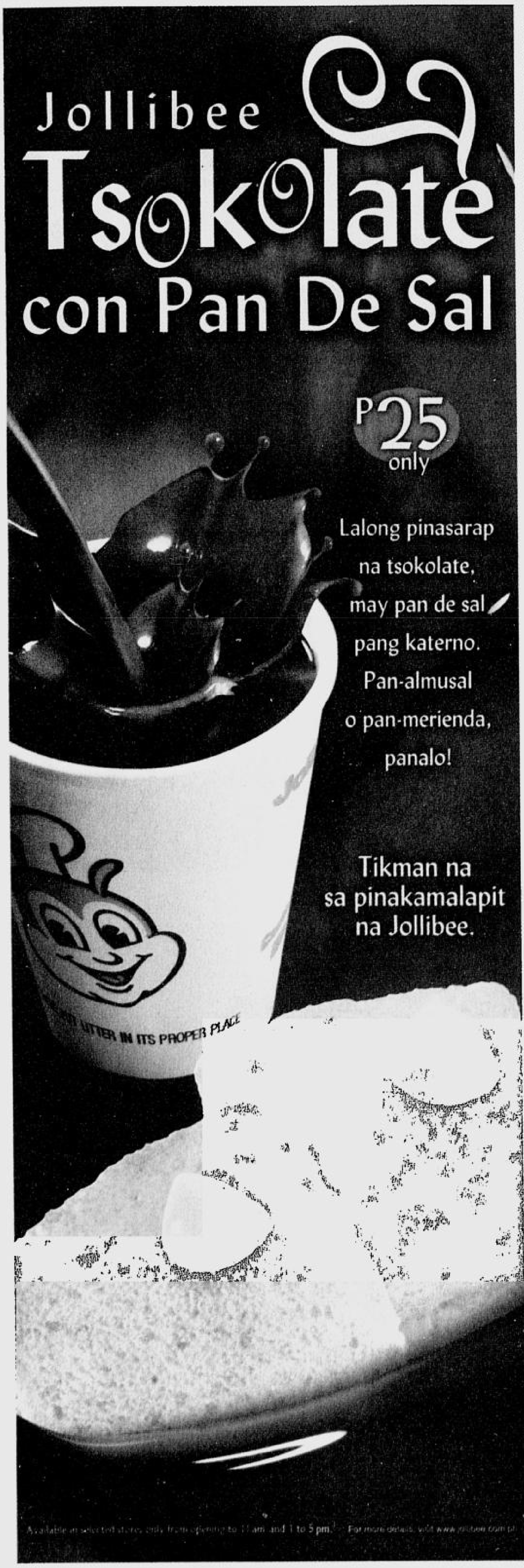
The graphic visuals were created by New York-based visual and graphic designer Romon Kimin Yang, a.k.a. "Rostarr." According to Rostarr, the campaign was a challenge as it was a tough task bringing out the essence of the theme, "Is This You."

"I hope that the illustrations for the campaign will inspire people to feel free to express themselves, to feel a sense of originality and really just go out there and try to do something different. And definitely create a change, more than anything," he says.

Rostarr's work is defined by a style he calls "Graphysics," a combination of graphic design and physics blended together for visual purposes. Mostly created in a free-formed and automatic manner, this genre of work weaves an individual vocabulary of iconography and symbolism to create polymorphic abstract patterns and characters.

Adding pep to the visual extravaganza is the background score by hip-hop master Jurassic 5.

Maximum Potential's elimination rounds have been held in Cebu, Davao, Pampanga and Metro Manila. Winners from each province will go to Metro Manila to participate in a Hot House, composed of training and coaching clinics on Aug. 15 and 16. The culmination of the campaign will be Battleground Asia 5-on-5 Finals on Aug. 17 at Festival Mall. Simultaneously, ballers from Metro Manila can also test their skills in the interactive basketball playground called Uptempo Room.



Time to change

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

"Spirit is constantly responding to your vision... and the higher your vision, the more you will evolve."—Deepak Chopra

BIRTHDAYS aren't just dates on a calendar marking your chronological existence in time. They are more than celebrations over wine and company. Consider them as opportunities for change, chances to remake your life and yourself. One can choose to remodel one's circumstances any day of the year, but one's birthday is a good time to start.

Inner alarm clock

You know it is time to make changes in your life when there is:

1. **Stagnation**—Your situation/outlook has not moved forward, such that you are beginning to grow cobwebs in your mind and heart.

2. **Dissatisfaction**—No matter how hard you try to find some semblance of perfection, there isn't any sense of peace or joy in you. You find yourself wanting all the time.

3. **Anger**—When your daily irritants at home and at work are a cause of quarrels, angry outbursts and confrontations. Consider it a danger signal when your anger turns to hatred or violence.

Your inner alarm clock is a built-in mechanism designed to warn you of impending conflict/trouble or the urgent need to re-assess your being. Not everyone has to hear these strong signals. Others simply approach change quietly as a matter of course, flowing with a natural law of evolution.

Natural law

There are unwritten rules that govern life. They revolve around honoring:

1. **Life**—Respect the sacredness in all things, from people to nature to our Creator.

2. **Love**—Above all, allow love to transcend circumstance and consequence. True love endures.

3. **Self**—To honor one's self means allowing yourself to find your perfect self-expression, fullest potential, and sweetest joy. You owe it to yourself.

When you allow yourself to go with the flow, you give yourself permission to run—to yourself and, inevitably, to God. Surrendering is a spiritual act, faith in action that believes love can accomplish anything even when you cannot foresee the outcome of a situation. Surrendering means letting go.

Surrendering is believing that love can accomplish anything even when you cannot foresee the outcome of a situation

How to let go

1. Do not insist on how a situation should be. Release this insistent ego grip. When you let go, new forms of reality can enter.

2. Be aware that you can become a prisoner of the past if you hold on to your old way of thinking. Instead ask yourself to be a pioneer of the future.

3. Know when to let go. The crucial times to let go are when you feel the strongest urge not to. Note: We hold on tightest when fear, anger, pride possess us.

A mind that is desperately holding on says: I hate this. It has to end. I can't stand it anymore. If this continues, I'll die. I can't go on. There's nothing left. I have no choice. It has to be my way or else. You're all wrong!

4. Release yourself to your spirit and a Higher Force will take over.

A different you

1. Escape to your own special hideaway. It can be a city, a beach, a corner of your room. Wherever it is, just go there.

2. Be with yourself for a change. There should be no distractions.

3. Talk to yourself. If you find this silly, write it down in a journal entitled "Metamorphosis."

4. Dream. Allow your unfulfilled dreams to manifest. Make them happen.

5. Bury your fears. Write down all your fears. Fold the paper. Give it a proper burial (just like the negativity cemetery in Camp John Hay).

6. Meditate on the sun. Catch its rising. Watch it turn the sky from darkness to light. Shangri-La Mactan or Rizal Park will do just fine for this.

7. Curl yourself up in a fetal position on the bed or floor in a dark room. Imagine you are back in your mother's womb feeling totally safe. Some might experience powerful emotions doing this exercise. It's okay. Repeat to yourself, "I am reborn, new and whole."

Renew your body

Take a good look at your body. See where you need to improve.

- Enroll in a gym or at least consult a dietician and fitness instructor.
- Liver tonic—Juice one fresh beet and one fresh carrot (peeled). Drink one glass daily for three days. This will regenerate your liver by removing toxins.
- Kidney tonic—Take one glass of cranberry juice (from concentrate) daily.

Renew your outlook

- Invoke the spirit to guide you as you begin a new day.
- See green light instead of red when you are embarking on a new project. What you think determines the outcome.
- Look on the brighter side of things, not the darker side.

Renew your heart

- Forgive others who have hurt you, especially yourself. Ask forgiveness from the one you hurt.
- Love. There is no other force more powerful than this. It is the only antidote to fear.

Want to be fearlessly new? Love. Consider each day a birthday, so you can become better and better until you've become the best person you can be.

Love and light!

Excerpted from "The Path To Love" by Deepak Chopra

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

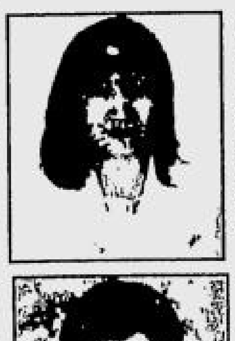
FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I have a daughter away at college who lives with her aunt in Manila. She does not live with us. If I enroll my family into MEDICard, is she still eligible for membership?

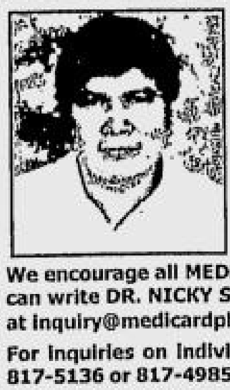
Yes, she is still eligible as long as she is within the eligibility age of below 21 years. Although we have indicated in our eligibility definitions the clause that dependents must also live under the same "roof" as the principal member, we have become flexible on some items of our policies to adapt to the changing times.

Meet your MEDICard Team

At St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC), members may seek the services of **Dr. Eloise Arabelle M. Caburnay.** Doc Arabelle is a graduate of De La Salle University Medicine. She is an Internist, subspecializing in Pulmonary Medicine and is a recent addition to the HMO's roster of accredited medical providers. Doc Arabelle is married to Gerry Caburnay, also an accredited specialist and has two wonderful children. Members may visit her for consultations from Mondays to Fridays, 1 to 5 PM and on Saturdays from 10 AM to 4 PM. She holds clinic at SLMC's Medical Arts Bldg.. Room 127.



Members may seek the services of accredited female surgeon, **Dr. Mary Geraldine B. Remucal.** "Doktora Remucal", as she is commonly referred to by her patients. finished Medicine at UERM-MMC. Thereafter, she took her residency training for General Surgery at UP-PGH. This Fellow of the Philippine Society of General Surgeons has special interest in breast surgery and diseases. Members may visit her clinic at Room 107, the Medico Bldg. of Medical City General Hospital, every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 2 to 5 PM.



"More than 22 years of clinical experience" is what best describes accredited dentist, **Leonardo B. Apuada.** Doc Leonardo specializes in Prosthodontics--the field of dentistry which deals in the restoration and replacement of teeth. He is a member of the Philippine Dental Association and the current vice president of the Mauban Medical Dental Association. Members may seek his services from Mondays to Sundays, 8 AM to 6 PM at the Apuada Dental Clinic, Plaridel St.. Mauban, Quezon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO 9001: 2000 certified